

Hafa Adai!

Lawyer is found in contempt; is fined \$200. **PAGE 2**

MVA refocusing efforts in DC to protect China market. **PAGE 3**

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CHCC reports 2nd dengue

Team Travis sergeant earns RPA pilot wings



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ron, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight line expediter, mans the controls of a Socata Trinidad TB-20 July 27, 2019, during a flight over the San Francisco Bay Area. Ron has accumulated more than 250 flying hours and completed Air Force remote pilot aircraft training.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JAMES HODGMAN

By NICK DECICCO

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's Note: Surnames were withheld to comply with Air Force guidelines on the disclosure of identifying information for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance personnel.

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.—When a Team Travis noncommissioned officer showed up five months into a six-month course at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, to become an Enlisted Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilot,

RELATED NEWS

Two Travis airmen selected for RPA pilot program. **PAGE 13**

there was confusion.

First, Tech. Sgt. Ron, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight line expediter, was incorrectly sorted into the wrong course, a mistake which became clear when a staff member asked why he

See **TEAM** on **Page 4**

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has confirmed a second case of dengue in the Commonwealth. Similar to the first case, the sec-

ond patient has also just returned from a trip to Palau. CHCC expects the patient to make a full recovery.

In a statement last Friday, CHCC believes that the patient contracted the infection during the person's trip to Pa-

lau. This is the second case of a person returning from Palau with the disease. There is cur-

See **DENGUE** on **Page 4**



PLASTIC SCOURGE

Photo taken in Guam shows a hermit crab that has found a home in a plastic bottle cap. The people of CNMI will be joining the simultaneous cleanup among Micronesia Island communities this Friday, Sept. 13, during Micronesia Cleanup Day, to help address garbage that harms marine life on the island. Meanwhile, the annual International Coastal Cleanup will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.

L. MAURIN

Stories on
Pages 5 and 7

\$233M budget heads to Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives accepted Friday afternoon the Senate version the government's budget for fiscal year 2020, skipping what has become a standard practice since

» Budget skips conference committee

2010 of going into a conference committee that is tasked with the job of coming up with a compromise version.

See **\$233M** on **Page 4**

FY 2020 BUDGET (PARTIAL ONLY)

Judicial Branch	\$5,669,224
Legislative Branch	\$6,756,666
Governor's and Lt. Governor's	\$2,102,895
Department of Commerce	\$1,755,515
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$3,352,372
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$5,108,905

See **BUDGET** on **Page 4**

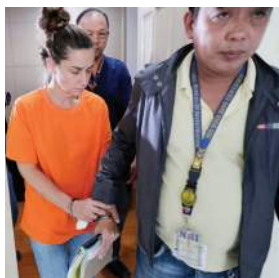
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan's Kili Café brings to the island the dishes served during Chuseok.

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ASIA

An American woman attempted to carry a 6-day-old baby out of the Philippines inside a bag.

PAGE 16



WORLD

Former Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe has died in Singapore. He was 95.

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Local

Lawyer is found in contempt; fined \$200

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan has found small claims lawyer Michael A. White guilty of con-

tempt of court and fined him \$200 for disruptive behavior and use of profane language during a hearing.

White was sanctioned \$100 for “contemptuous and profane” response to an unfav-

orable ruling made in open court last June 3, and another \$100 for twice denying having made any such statement, for a total of \$200.

White notified the court last Wednesday that he is appeal-

ing the ruling and sanction. That prompted Bogdan to stay the payment of the \$200 sanction pending White’s appeal.

The judge said if, or any reason, an appeal is not initiated, White is ordered to pay the \$200 sanction before the end of 30 days.

If an appeal is filed but is dismissed, White is required to pay the \$200 sanction within 24 hours of the dismissal.

Bogdan said White made the contemptuous disagreement with a court ruling during a motion hearing last June 3 in a courtroom at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Bogdan said that, at the June 3 hearing, following his decision not to award Financial & Insurance Services Group Inc.’s request for damages in a small claim against a defendant, White turned away from the bench and said out loud to the public gallery with words to the effect, “I don’t need this s__t.”

Having heard the comment, Bogdan asked White what he had just said: “I’m sorry, you don’t need what?”

The judge said White avoided directly answering the question and responded he does not need anything.

Bogdan said he asked White a second time whether he stated “[I] don’t need to take this s__t, or [I’m] tired of this s__t, or anything along those lines.”

Bogdan said White responded repeatedly “no” to

the questions, denying making any such comment and then asserted that he did not recall what he said.

Bogdan informed White that he would order a copy of the hearing’s audio and may hold him in contempt if he confirmed his use of profanity and denials.

Bogdan said the audio recording does confirm White’s use of profanity.

Bogdan then issued last June 12 an order to show cause as to why White should not be punished for contempt of court for his use of profanity in open court on June 3—and for twice denying saying it.

Last July 1, White filed a

written response to the show-cause order.

A hearing was held last Aug. 5.

White appeared at the hearing, but did not wish

to make any further statement

and rested on the arguments

submitted in his filing.

In his ruling last Aug. 16

finding White guilty of contempt of court, Bogdan said

he recognizes the legal reputation that White has built for

himself in the CNMI and the number of cases that he has

successfully handled over the years, but he cannot ignore

the fact that White’s demeanor in the courtroom

at times rises to an unacceptable level.

The disruptive episodes, he

said, are unpredictable as to when they might occur and

are intermixed with days in a row wherein White conducts

himself appropriately before the court with no negative in-

cidents whatsoever.

Bogdan said he has advised

White of this concern several time, and has cautioned him—both verbally and in written opinions—that his undisciplined behavior in the courtroom at times appear out of control and is contemptuous and should stop.

Despite those warnings, Bogdan said, White still has occasional outbursts of offensive behavior showing disrespect and contempt of court and its decisions and orders.

The judge said White again demonstrated such behavior on the date in question.

At the June 3 hearing, Bogdan said, White was unsatisfied with the court’s decision and at first made various disparaging arguments about how the court’s decision was absolutely wrong.

Bogdan said White then used a disrespectful and belligerent tone to challenge his final ruling.

Bogdan said following the concluding announcement of his decision, White made a disrespectful and profane remark about the decision to the open gallery.

The judge said he and the court’s staff heard the remark.

Bogdan said White’s behavior and words interfered with the work and duties of the court to maintain order and effective control of its proceedings.

Bogdan said he was left with

no other option than to inform

White that an order to show

cause as to why he should not

be found in contempt of court

would be issued following the

review of the hearing’s audio

recording.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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MVA refocusing efforts in DC to protect China market

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal government's decision to end parole for Russian tourists took the Marianas Visitors Authority aback and disappointed the agency, believing this will mean an almost overnight loss of thousands of dollars for the CNMI's fragile economy.

Of more concern to the MVA is that the federal government made this sudden decision without consulting or giving notice to the CNMI that it would be ending the Commonwealth's access to a critical source market for tourists.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said Friday that this is prompting the MVA to refocus its efforts in Washington, D.C. to ensure that what happened with the Russia market does not happen to the China market, which also relies on parole authority to be able to enter the CNMI.

She said any such an action by the federal government with China market would cripple the CNMI economy overnight.

At present, Chinese tourists are allowed to enter the CNMI through the parole program, without requiring them to first secure a U.S. visa in China.

Russian nationals are now prohibited from entering both Guam and the CNMI under the discretionary parole authority after the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security rescinded a 2009 decision to allow Chinese and Russian nationals to enter both territories.

According to the DHS notice published in the *Federal Register*, Russian nationals will be unable to enter both CNMI and Guam for business or pleasure under the discretionary parole authority effective Oct. 3, 2019.

Aldan-Pierce pointed out that the Russian market is a critical source market that the CNMI has sought to grow since Russian tourists first started arriving in the CNMI in 2005—over 14 years—and many jobs in the CNMI will be impacted as a result of the new DHS deci-

sion. When the program started in 2005, the CNMI only had 250 visitor arrivals from Russia. The number grew over the years to a high of approximately 14,000 Russian arrivals in 2014.

"Since that time, the numbers have declined and this year we were on track for approximately 2,000 arrivals," Aldan-Pierce said. While the number has declined, MVA has noted that each Russian family typically stays longer and spends more than others.

With China, Aldan-Pierce said they are presently working to protect the China parole program, as it is the bedrock of the CNMI's economy.

Aldan-Pierce said they plan to work with Delegate Grego-

rio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), as well as with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' administration and others in the House of Representatives and Senate to ensure that policymakers in Washington, D.C. understand how vital the Chinese parole program is to the CNMI economy.

She said the White House released a draft report from the 902 Consultations, which indicated they would make modifications to the China parole program.

Aldan-Pierce said they understand that the U.S. Depart-



Aldan-Pierce

ment of Homeland Security will be formulating regulations on the China parole program in the coming months.

"Details matter immensely when regulations are written, and the MVA plans to work tirelessly to ensure that the CNMI has a vibrant tourism market for many years to come," she said.

Torres and U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Douglas W. Domenech, who were the representatives of the CNMI and the U.S. federal government for the 902 Consultation,

respectively, made four recommendations, among them to modify the discretionary parole program of DHS to reduce the maximum period of parole from 45 days to 14 days and electronic screening and vetting prior to arrival at the port of entry.

When asked about any plan to open a new source market for the CNMI, Aldan-Pierce said MVA is always looking for ways to expand and secure the CNMI's tourism economy.

Presently, MVA is working to re-vitalize the Japan market.

» **'Any such an action with the China market would cripple the CNMI economy overnight'**

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Moderate earthquakes shake region

At 5:30am on Sept. 7 2019, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 29 kilometers north-northwest of Agrihan in the Northern Marianas Islands. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Last Sept. 3, 2019, at 12:19pm, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 51 kilometers north

northwest of Dededo in Guam. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued.

The day before, on Sept. 2, at 5:38pm, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 97 kilometers south of Merizo in Guam. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

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See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2500. While current supplies last, 2019 Hyundai Tucson total price is \$23,995. Financed at 3.5% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$349.21 or \$161 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$20,952.60. 2019 Hyundai Kona total price is \$21,995. Financed at 3.5% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$320.10 or \$147 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$19,206.

TEAM

From Page 1

wanted to be a sensor operator. Once he did get to the correct class, further confusion came from his fellow classmates, who were surprised to see Ron join their ranks so late. He was able to skip much of the course because he already had his private pilot's license and instrument rating. "It was kind of weird showing up at Randolph in June and these guys have been together for the past five months, from the very beginning," he said. "So I show up in the last month, like, 'Who's this guy?'" To answer that, it's important to wind the clock back. Years before earning his RPA pilot wings in July, Ron was raised on Saipan, the larg-

est of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean. It's less than 50 square miles. "It's a dot on a map," Ron said. "You can't even see it on a map. You have to look hard." Ron joined the Air Force in July 2009 and arrived at Travis AFB in 2010. His time fixing C-17 Globemaster IIIs as a maintainer sparked an interest in aviation, so he began taking flying lessons at the base's aero club in nearby Rio Vista. "I grew up at that aero club, from zero hours to where I'm at right now, they taught me how to fly," he said. Although he began the RPA course with the lessons learned through the aero club, Ron said he feels pressure to succeed so that the opportunity remains open for other enlisted Airmen to follow in his footsteps. "If I messed up, it would

mess it up for future guys coming up," he said. "What matters is aptitude, intellect and work ethic." Ron said the job brings a different sort of pressure than his role in maintenance. While the former was more overtly physically demanding, his new role will ask a lot psychologically. "People say it's like a video game. It's not like a video game," he said. "Imagine you're flying a plane with the normal stuff you have to do. You're already multitasking when you're flying, right? You've got the controls, you're on the radio. So imagine all of that plus having a laptop on your lap, and you're typing away, and you're talking on your cell phone and you have an iPad." It's a big change from maintenance, where Ron went on five deployments.

He's "somewhat of a legend" in the 860th AMXS, according to Master Sgt. Rick Placenik, the squadron's lead production superintendent. "He's been an absolute, complete rock star, one of the best airmen I've ever had the privilege to work with," Placenik said. "At the end of the day, I don't want to lose him out of my office and squadron. I don't want to lose that level of expertise in maintenance. But, if the Air Force has this opportunity and it's what he wants to do, he's earned it." It's been a long journey for Ron, from his youth on Saipan all the way to joining an emerging career field as an enlisted RPA pilot. "I used to work at a hotel doing a Polynesian dinner show, playing the ukulele and drumming for tourists, so from that to RPA pilot is crazy," he said.

CHCC

From Page 1

rently a dengue fever outbreak in Palau. The first patient has fully recovered from the infection. The CHCC statement assures that there is still no evidence that on-island transmission of dengue has occurred; CHCC believes that the chance of an outbreak remains low. CHCC confirmed its first dengue fever case last Aug. 9. Once the patient reported symptoms of dengue fever, CHCC quarantined the patient to keep any means of spreading the dengue fever as remote as possible. The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported yesterday one additional confirmed dengue case in Guam. The individual recently returned from a trip to Yap. The DPHSS reported that there is no dengue outbreak and dengue virus transmission is not occurring on the island. It reported a total of 41 cases from 1988 to 2018. A total of two cases have been confirmed in 2019 in Guam, both contracted from off-island. Guam will likely continue to see additional suspected and confirmed dengue fever cases this year from immigrants, migrants, and residents who travel back and forth to countries that have dengue fever outbreaks. CHCC approximates that one in four people with den-

gue will become sick, and it usually is a mild illness that does not require hospitalization. Symptoms of dengue fever are sudden high fever, severe headaches and pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, and a skin rash that appears two to five days after the onset of the fever. CHCC urges anyone who is experiencing the symptoms of dengue fever, especially if the person has recently returned from a country with a dengue fever outbreak, to see a doctor right away. They advise that anyone who intends to travel to a country with a dengue outbreak such as the Philippines, Palau, Yap, and the Marshall Islands, to take special care to avoid being bitten by any mosquitoes while on the trip and for two weeks after the person returns to the CNMI. Although there is a vaccine for dengue fever, it has only been approved for those who have already been infected with dengue. For more information on dengue fever, contact the CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program at (670) 234-8950, or email the Surveillance Unit at surveillance@chcc.gov.mp. For more information about controlling mosquito populations, contact the Bureau of Environmental Heat at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

\$233M

From Page 1

Notably, the bill does not contain austerity cuts, which signals that the CNMI government will go back to regular operations when the fiscal year starts on Oct. 1, 2019. The fiscal year 2020 budget identified over \$233.2 million in revenue, of which over \$148.8 million is available for appropriation. The House voted 14-2 to accept the budget bill, with Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voting against. The bill now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' desk for review and enactment. His office has 20 days to review the budget bill. House Bill 21-64 HD2, SD1 was introduced by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who said Friday that the budget is a product of the hard work of each member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which he chairs. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Senate, led by Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian). Although fiscal year 2019 ends with austerity measures, the budget bill for fiscal year 2020 left the Legislature without austerity measures. However, with reports of a possible \$19 million shortfall in fiscal year 2019, Propst noted his concern over the budget and wishes to discuss it further at the conference committee. "I have a hard time to believe realistically that the amount projected [in this budget] is fair and more than that, accurate," Propst stated. "In fiscal year 2018, well before Super Typhoon Yutu hit us, we found out we had a \$26-million deficit. Today...there is

a \$19-million shortfall. I am concerned," he added. Sablan further pointed out that, with the revelation of a possible \$19-million shortfall, there is no reason to believe that austerity measure will not continue through fiscal year 2020. "...We have had no signal from the governor yet as to whether austerity measures will continue through fiscal year 2020, but we have no reason to believe that it would not continue. [But there is] every reason that it will [with] no new economic activity; we are already in a hole of \$19.5 million," she said. "The best way out of a hole is to stop digging." "I do understand that the projection does not reflect the current economic crisis we have right now," Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) noted in a statement. Yumul represented the House during Senate discussions of the budget. "As a government, we need to...take a position to make projections and follow through on that [to set course toward] the stabilization of the economy," he added. "We may come to a shortfall, but we don't know that. We are hoping the administration and the Department of [Finance] does follow through with the tax...but that is not our position as this body. Our job is to look at the budget and accept or [reject Senate amendments]." He pointed out that if the House fails to accept the Senate amendments, the CNMI government will have to shut down. Rep. Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) noted that the House's political climate differs from the Senate's political climate. "I just don't want to see a shutdown," she stated. "If we go into conference committee, we don't know the games

BUDGET

From Page 1

Department of Corrections	\$4,449,894
Department of Finance	\$6,582,426
Department of Labor	\$1,131,449
Department of Lands and Natural Resources	\$3,240,923
Department of Public Safety	\$6,936,138
Department of Public Works	\$2,928,389
Department of Public Lands	\$4,103,865
Rota Mayor's Office	\$3,201,629
Rota Municipal Council	\$298,618
Tinian Mayor's Office	\$4,030,208
Tinian Municipal Council	\$201,814
Saipan Mayor's Office	\$2,900,971
Saipan Municipal Council	\$149,792
Northern Islands Mayor's Office	\$495,507
Commonwealth Cannabis Commission	\$551,479
CNMI Scholarship Office	\$1,985,039
Commonwealth Health Care Corporation	\$ 2,020,000
Northern Marianas College	\$5,965,277
Public School System	\$37,718,904
Board of Education	\$322,837
NMC Board of Regents	\$107,853


or politics at the Senate. I will just be very disappointed if we reject this and the Senate plays their games," she said. "I don't want a shutdown, I don't want...the people of the Marianas to suffer. I know this is not a perfect bill, but I ask the members [of the House] to please consider and let's move on." **Unprecedented** In a later interview, House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-Saipan), described the budget as a collaborative effort, noting that this was the first budget to skip the conference committee panel since the 17th Legislature back in 2010, prior to the ratification of the CNMI constitutional mandate that required the Legislature to enact a budget bill instead of the government go-

ing into continuing resolution. "At the end of the day, the House members' concerns at the beginning of the budget process from the House Committee on Ways and Means... were addressed during the House session and those concerns were maintained at the Senate," he noted. "A lot of the issues that brings the budget to the conference committee are differences in how the money is shifted," he said. "The senators did work on how they took care of their senatorial districts without touching our [districts]," he added. Reps. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Arriola Flores (Ind-Saipan), Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Marco Peter (R-Saipan) were absent from the session last Friday.

FIGHT THE BITE!

Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and remove areas where mosquitos breed.

- Empty water from containers around your home and workplace, including tires, toys, buckets,
- Coconuts, soda cans, flower pots, pet bowls; anything that can hold water, even very small amounts such as the tops of soda bottles, should be emptied and prevented from filling again in the rain if possible.
- Flush out holes in trees and plants.
- Keep your yard clean and drain puddles.
- Clean roof gutters to make sure rain does not accumulate and can drain out properly.
- Cover or screen rain collection barrels
- Fix leaking pipes outside.
- Speak to your neighbors and help them empty or remove water containers.
- Avoid being bitten by mosquitos:
- Make sure your windows



and doors have well-fitting screens with no gaps or holes; fix any holes in your screens.

- Close doors and windows and use air-conditioning if you have it, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active.
- Use approved mosquito repellants containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon-Eucalyptus, or Para-Methane-Diol. Do not use these two products on children younger than 3 years old, and always read product instruction labels before use.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants when possible, particularly at dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active.
- Cover strollers and baby cribs with mosquito netting. (CHCC)

BECQ-DCRM receives \$1.1 million in NOAA funding for coastal resources management

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently awarded the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management \$1.1 million for the continued support of the CNMI's coastal management program in fiscal year 2020.

"[DCRM] has successfully and continuously secured grant funding to mitigate coastal resources concerns and restore heavily affected coastal zones," said BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera.

Administered by DCRM, the CNMI's coastal management program was first approved by NOAA in 1980. The CNMI joins 33 other coastal states and territories in the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary federal-state partnership that protects, restores, and responsibly develops our nation's coastal communities and resources by balancing economic development, coastal uses, and natural resource protection. DCRM continues to promote conservation and wise use of the CNMI's coastal resources through various projects and processes.

DCRM director Janice Castro explained the funding will

support many of the CRM's initiatives for a sustainable environment.

Castro emphasized that DCRM works to promote stewardship of the CNMI's coastal resources and inspire both present and future generations to do their part in caring for our environment.

"This month, DCRM is coordinating the annual International Coastal Cleanup and invites the community to participate in the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to remove trash from our coasts and waterways," she said.

This year, ICC will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019. Last year, the CNMI had 1,532 volunteers collect 9,180 pounds of trash from 50 locations.

For more information or to sign up, contact Colleen Flores at 664-8300 or cflores@dcrm.gov.mp.

Moreover, DCRM encourages the community to participate in Micronesia Cleanup Day on Sept. 13, 2019, which will be organized by the Office of the Governor, BECQ, and private partners in collaboration with the Micronesian Islands Forum.

For more information or to sign up, contact BECQ at 664-8500. **(PR)**

NWS sees rainy week ahead; watch out for potential typhoons

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, predicts this week to be wet.

Based on NWS information compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point on Capital Hill, rainy weather is expected this week across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

A separate weather advisory from the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam warned

that typhoons are most frequent from June to November, with as many as 26 typhoons forming in a season, so keep an eye out for any weather disturbance in the next few months.

According to the weather advisory the EOC issued yesterday, it said that weather models continue to show the development of a large monsoonal circulation developing

across the area. The circulation will move across the Marianas by Tuesday and into the Philippine Sea by mid-week. The circulation itself plus low-level convergence east of it will keep scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the local area from last night through much of the coming week.

Model rainfall accumulations indicate that up to

8 inches of rain could fall from last night through next Saturday.

The public is being advised that, due to the drought earlier this year, localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors this week, have a backup plan in place. **(PR)**

TYPHOON SAFETY

Typhoons are most frequent from June to November with as many as 26 typhoons forming in a season. These typhoons typically pack powerful winds and can be very destructive. Ensure you have a plan and are prepared when a typhoon strikes.

CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- Learn about how you'll be notified of an event, and plans that may be in place to deal with these events.
- Discuss how you and your family will respond to each possible emergency.
- Discuss what to do in case of power outages or personal inquiries.

PREPARE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day).
- 3 to 5-day supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food.
- First aid kit.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- Blankets, bedding, or sleeping bags.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- PLAN AHEAD
- Check on friends and coworkers while communications are available.
- Ensure you are up-to-date with current TCCOR level and emergency situations.
- Stay inside when directed to ensure safety.
- For more information visit: <https://www.anderson.af.mil/TyphoonSafety/>

TROPICAL CYCLONE CONDITION OF READINESS LEVELS



TCCOR 4

Winds of 58 mph or greater within 72 hours. YOU SHOULD stock up on supplies and necessities.

TCCOR 3

Winds of 58 mph or greater within 48 hours. YOU SHOULD store water, secure possible debris such as outdoor furniture, ensure plans are in place.

TCCOR 2

Winds of 58 mph or greater within 48 hours. YOU SHOULD store water, secure possible debris such as outdoor furniture, ensure plans are in place.

TCCOR 1

Winds of 58 mph or greater within 12 hours. Schools will be closing. Make a final check of food, water and other supplies.

TCCOR 1C

Winds of 58 mph or greater within 12 hours. Actual winds, including gusts, are 34-49 knots. All outside activities except those in direct support of critical military or civil missions will be discontinued.

TCCOR 1E

Winds of 58 mph or greater are occurring. All outside activities are prohibited.

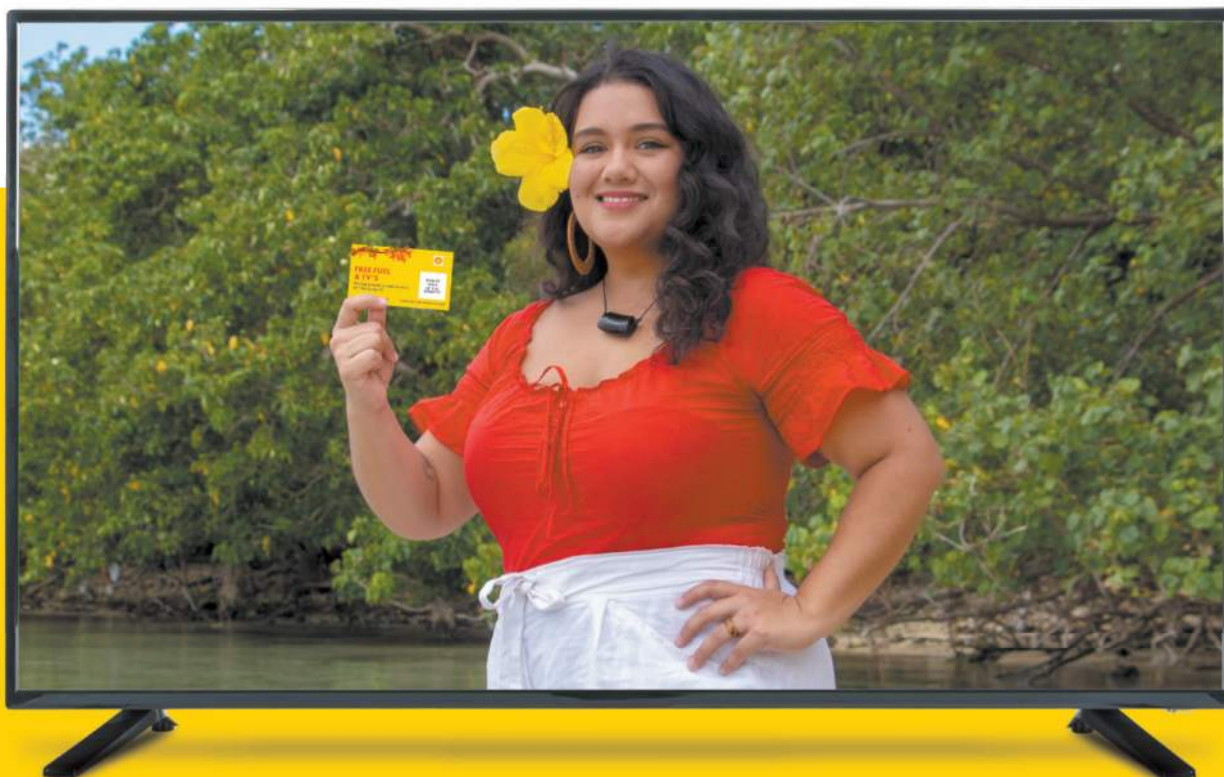
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*No purchase necessary. Some conditions apply. See stores for details.



Pacquiao backs visa waivers for Filipinos visiting Guam

HAGATNA—Philippine senator and boxing champion Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao is endorsing the government of Guam’s push to persuade the U.S. government to grant visa waivers for Filipinos who wish to travel to the American territory. Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Bautista Rodriguez has also backed the idea.

In separate visits by former two-term Guam governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez, who now serves as chief advisor to Gov. Lourdes

“Lou” Leon Guerrero for Economic Development, National and International Affairs, Pacquiao and Rodriguez expressed enthusiasm for the initiative.

“I’m confident that Sen. Pacquiao and Congressman Rodriguez’s unqualified support for this worthwhile initiative will go a long way to encourage travel between the Philippines and Guam,” Gutierrez said.

He argued that it is time to grant Filipinos visa waiver when visiting Guam since

regulatory red tape is making it too difficult for Filipino travelers to visit and secure temporary employment in Guam, even though tens of thousands of Filipinos already live in the U.S. territory.

It is Gutierrez’s goal to add the Philippines to the list of the dozen countries whose passport holders are allowed visa-free passage to Guam and the CNMI by way of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Guam-CNMI Visa

Waiver Program.

In an earlier visit to Manila, in April, Gutierrez secured the imprimatur of the Philippine government to form a Philippines-Guam Visa Task Force for this purpose.

The task force is also charged with helping the Philippines get back on the list of countries whose nationals can be fast-tracked for H-2A and H-2B worker visas. Guam is hoping to secure workers from the Philippines in the next

few years during the island’s multibillion-dollar American military buildup.

No stranger to U.S. immigration laws requiring visas from

Camacho parole denied, Appleby parole granted

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has denied convicted murderer Jesse James Camacho’s application for parole while granting Shawn Appleby a second chance.

Parole officer Jason Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that the board decided to deny Camacho’s application for parole but approved Appleby’s application.

Lizama said this was Camacho’s second and Appleby’s third time to apply for parole.

He said Camacho was unable to prove to the board that he was ready for an early release.

BOP chair Ramon B. Camacho, Jose C. Camacho, Michael Evangelista, Ignacio S. Mendiola, and Celina K. Selepeo conducted the parole hearings at the Department of Corrections’ conference room last Wednesday and Thursday. They deliberated the following day and made their decisions.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley opposed the granting

of parole for both Appleby and Camacho, saying both committed the highest possible crime of murder.

Appleby is serving a 40-year prison term for killing Byung Ok Suh in November 1996 after robbing the victim’s store, Chalan Market, in San Antonio. Apple bolted from prison twice, in 1999 and 2007, adding two more years on top of his 40-year sentence.

Appleby was granted parole in 2011, but this was revoked as he violated the rules and regulations agreed upon between him and the BOP.

Camacho was the mastermind in the killing of a 13-year-old boy in Dandan in April 1998. He was sentenced in 1999 to 45 years in prison. The victim was stabbed 37 times in his own home as part of initiation rites for membership in the so-called Red Rum Gang.

Camacho’s co-defendants, both minors at the time, entered a plea deal with the government and were sentenced to two years each.



Carl T.C. Gutierrez, Guam’s chief adviser on Economic Development, National and International Affairs, briefs Philippine Sen. Manny Pacquiao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Do you believe in ending violence in the CNMI? Are you a self-starting and motivated individual? NMCADSV is looking for a new team member! Read on to find out how you can be part of this amazing movement!

Minimum Qualifications:

- An agreement with NMCADSV’s philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience providing clerical and administrative support
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Flexible Schedule (May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and the to the U.S. Mainland

Extra consideration will be given for the following:

- One (1) year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations
- Own transportation with a valid driver’s license, insurance and registration

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email info@endviolencenmi.org
No phone inquiries, please.

Classification & Salary Range: Full-time, Non-Exempt, 40 hours per week,
\$10.00/hr. ~ \$14.00/hr. (based on experience and qualifications)

Application Deadline and Submission Information:

Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 20, 2019.

If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted via email to info@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV’s office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building, Suite 206, or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance, and a list of references.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-1801MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRIMARY SCREEN, GRIT & FOG REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1, Supply and Delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

This Friday is Micronesia Cleanup Day

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the Legislature mulls a bill that proposes to ban single-use plastic bags in the CNMI, the Commonwealth is taking yet another step toward cleaning its shores—this time, with the rest

Bringing the MHS admin inside classrooms

By MARC A. VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Incoming Marianas High School principal Eric Evangelista intends to boost the amount of time the school's administrative staff spend in classrooms in a bid to see for themselves whatever concerns students and teachers may have throughout the school year.

To accomplish this effort, Evangelista will be implementing the "80/20" rule, which instructs himself and vice principals Melanie Sablan and Christine Tudela to use 80% of their time to visit classrooms and observe any issues or concerns and the remaining 20% dedicated to administrative duties.

He said that, as the incoming principal, he intends to strengthen the school's academic core and maintain active participation in academic competitions. He believes that with this, students that transition into college can achieve success in a new col-

lege environment. of the Micronesia island community—by joining a Micronesia-wide cleanup that's happening this Friday, Sept. 13.

Last Friday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed Sept. 13, 2019, as Micronesia Cleanup Day, which calls for an islandwide cleanup this Friday.

Evangelista said that he will focus on building relationship with the students and teachers. One way he believes this can be done is to increase student scholastic activities, as he intends to keep MHS occupied in events in the upcoming months.

He believes this will have a "domino effect" in which one move will create a significant effect in other areas of a student or teacher's life. "Instilling a better relationship with both the students and teachers will increase performance, not only academically, but innovatively and creatively," Evangelista said.

Evangelista is one of many principals and vice principals who were reassigned last July, as he moved from Da'ok Academy to replace current Francisco M. Sablan Middle School principal Cherlyn Cabrera. Evangelista reported that there are roughly over 1,500 students registered at MHS this school year.

day, with activities to be done simultaneously on all Micronesian islands.

"I call on all people who call the Marianas home to join our government and private partners to clean up our beaches, villages, and our community. Together, we can create a cleaner Marianas and a sustainable Micronesia," Torres said in the proclamation.

Recognizing that the increase of trash, on land and in the water, poses a great threat to the way of life on the islands, Torres, with the leaders of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the U.S. territory of Guam, formed a pact that led to the Micronesia Cleanup Day declaration.

"In the face of global climate change, all people in Micronesia are needed to come together to keep the environment healthy and clean," the proclamation states.

The Micronesia Cleanup Day provides all communities within Micronesia the opportunity to come as a united



File photo shows Larry Maurin participating in a beach-side cleanup at the back of the TSL Plaza in Gaparan.

IVA MAURIN

people to protect the Pacific islands, to promote cleanliness, remove environmental waste, and make a stand against lit-

tering, pollution, and threats to the island way of life.

Government agencies and interested community partners

can register to join the cleanup with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8500.

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ITB 19-CHCC/DENTAL-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM
**"DENTAL VAN – COMMONWEALTH
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – DENTAL**
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN NOW DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SIDE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
**ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN,
FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING, AND
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**
NMC RQS 19-001
Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualifications Statement's" for Architectural/Engineering services. The Statements of Qualification is due not later than 10:00am on September 27, 2019, Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.
The requests for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" Packet are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing Monday at 10:00am, August 26, 2019. No fee is required for obtaining the RQS packets.
Pre-submittal conference is scheduled for Friday, 10:00am on September 13, 2019 at NMC Conference Room, Building P.
This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement. Interested firms/individuals located outside of the CNMI may request for the RQS packet by e-mail address to Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.
NMC reserves the right to reject any or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.
/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office
A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

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BID SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2019-006
**Building Maintenance Services for
NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan**
Proposal package will be available on **August 28, 2019** at the NMHC Central Office in Gaparan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.
The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.
A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 09, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Gaparan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.
For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447, or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.
/s/ Kimo M. Rosario
Acting-Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors
/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
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Individual rifling through vehicle is arrested for auto burglary

On Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019, at about 2:56am, a CNMI Department of Public Safety officer was conducting a routine patrol around the village of Chalan Kanoa when he noticed the ajar door of a vehicle that was

in the middle of a dimly lit parking lot.

As the officer approached the vehicle, he noticed an individual searching for something inside the vehicle. When the officer asked the individual if he owns

the vehicle he was in, the suspect stated that it wasn't and that he was looking for a cigarette. He then fled on foot and ran down Crispina Street, then made a



Peter

right along Gregorio Avenue, eventually running onto Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi Road. Shortly after, the officer, who chased the suspect on foot, caught

the suspect. He then allegedly became uncooperative and yelled profanities at the officer. That was until the suspect's parents stepped out of a nearby apartment and yelled his name, after which the officer identified

the suspect as Keson Peter from a previous encounter.

At 3:09am, the officer arrested Keson Peter for burglary and transported him to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

Women helping women beat unemployment

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United States' unemployment rate in August 2019 was

at 3.7%. In the CNMI, that rate is at a staggering 11%, with over 1,000 unemployed.

To help address this, the Women's Affairs Office part-

nered with other government and community partners for the "Dress for Success" event last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Felicidad Ogumoro, administrator of the Commonwealth Women's Association program, said the event gives women the opportunity

to meet with different businesses, as well as see other community opportunities that women can turn to for help.

Gently-used business and work clothes and fashion accessories were also given away at the event.

"Our job is to assist women in their quest to be placed in jobs that they are interested in, and that they could succeed," Ogumoro said.

The event brought together 20 organizations to help address the challenges faced by women in terms of employment, like child care, health, fashion, and education. These included Karidat Social Services, the Northern Marianas College, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Division of Public Health, Department of Labor,

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pena House, and T-Galleria DFS, among others.

One of the participants, NMC student Eloise Lopez, said the event not only helps in getting a job, but also helps women develop skills and confidence.

"I'm here to learn so I could share [what I would learn] with the youth, like creating a résumé or how to look professional wearing a business suit," said Lopez.

The participants were each given goody bags and were provided access to career counseling, child care services, violence in the workplace advice, and even fashion consultations and makeup sessions.

First lady Diann Torres also gamely mixed and matched a couple of business suits to show the participants how quickly it takes to shift from casual to professional. Torres, however, also emphasized that character and attitude are what matter most.

"Character and your attitude, no matter how you look, is what really matter," Torres said. "Dressing for success is being comfortable with yourself, your beliefs, the people around you. It means going out and seeking for what will bring out the best in you. Give it your best."

The U.S. Labor Department says that August's national unemployment rate has been near the lowest level in five decades, for the third straight month.



Accessories were among the hundreds of giveaways for the attendees of the "Dress for Success" women empowerment event last Friday. About 20 organizations joined forces during the event to provide women with career counseling, childcare services, violence in the workplace advice, and even fashion consultations and makeup sessions.

IVA MAURIN



Women get to pick and take home business outfits from racks and racks of donated women's clothing during the "Dress for Success" women empowerment event last Friday.

IVA MAURIN



Pacific Region ARFF Training Center training coordinator Carol Hosono and Carolinian Affairs Office project manager Agatha K. Ketebengang elicit some laughs as they styled each other for success. The two women hosted the "Dress for Success" women empowerment event last Friday.

IVA MAURIN



First lady Diann Torres shares that dressing for success is also about character and attitude, and about being comfortable with oneself.

IVA MAURIN



CAR SERVICE GIVEAWAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun, right, presents Emily Barcelo, left, with a car service gift certificate. Barcelo will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019 to mark its 45th anniversary. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

APHI brings Int’l Housekeeping Appreciation Week to Saipan

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the last four years, Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. Saipan, which handles Century Hotel, Kanoa Resort, and Fiesta Resort & Spa (both in Saipan and Guam), has been celebrating International Housekeeping Appreciation Week. Now on its fifth year, APHI is hoping that the event would also be embraced by all other hotels in the CNMI.

The International Housekeeping Appreciation Week, a global event celebrated usually in the second week of September, puts a spotlight on the important role housekeepers play in the tourism industry. This year’s celebration would run on Sept. 8-12.

Glenn Policare, Kanoa Resort’s director of operations, explains that the celebration gives housekeepers a chance to feel how much their 24/7 work is appreciated, and they get a chance to interact with housekeepers from other hotels and have fun.

“We have all the big hotels out here and, hands down, housekeeping has the dirtiest, hardest job of any of the different departments in the hotel,” Policare said. “Housekeepers, on this week, will be treated to breakfast, followed



Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. Saipan brings to Saipan the International Housekeeping Appreciation Week, a global event highlighting the important role housekeepers play in the tourism industry. This year’s celebration would run on Sept. 8-12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

by fun activities, including a tea and cake party.”

Crispin Huliganga, who handles 44 housekeeping staff in Kanoa, said housekeepers are the unsung heroes of hotels. “Housekeepers are the heart of the hotel. If no one would clean [the hotels], no one would bother staying in hotels. The job of a housekeeper is very difficult, but very important. It is proper to show them any appreciation that may give them even a little bit of happiness.”

Paulina Pascual, Fiesta’s executive housekeeper, first brought the celebration to the islands through Fiesta in 2015. Pascual is originally from Hawaii where the International Housekeeping Appreciation

Week is celebrated.


“Housekeeping in the hotel industry is one of the toughest jobs. We do all the dirty work,” she said. “When I came to the CNMI, I saw that while housekeepers are being appreciated, they are not into celebrating it for an entire week [as in the rest of the world].”

Pascual, who has been in the business for 14 years, proposed the idea of celebrating the International Housekeeping Appreciation Week to her boss, who agreed to it, and Fiesta has been celebrating it since then.

“I’d like to encourage the whole community, especially the hotels, to start looking into the celebration of the International Housekeeping Appreciation Week as a way to

recognize and appreciate the people because housekeeping is a very tough job. Housekeepers must be appreciated,” Pascual said.

The highlight of this year’s celebration is a grand ball, the “5th Annual Housekeeping Gala Night,” on Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-025

ROTA WATER CAVE ENCLOSURE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water Cave Enclosure in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new concrete CMU block wall enclosure, screened aluminum doors, drain pipes, fencing upgrades; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public Law 20-61.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-19-025, Rota Water Cave Enclosure”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2019**. Bid Submissions will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:15 AM (ChST) the same day. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Edgar Tuazon, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Imagine the terror in the Bahamas, then help



On Thursday, with Hurricane Dorian taking dead aim at us, South Florida adopted the air of a community that knows the drill and began bracing for the strongest storm ever to threaten Florida's east coast.

On Sunday, thankfully, Dorian's cone of uncertainty took a turn. And Tuesday, finally, the plodding monster took that predicted turn, lashing us only with modest rain and wind gusts, hardly worse than a summer rainstorm.

The same cannot be said for our neighbors in the Bahamas, just a little over 100 miles away.

You only had to watch the radar—as everyone did once Dorian developed into a hurricane last Wednesday—to know it was going to be bad for our neighbors.

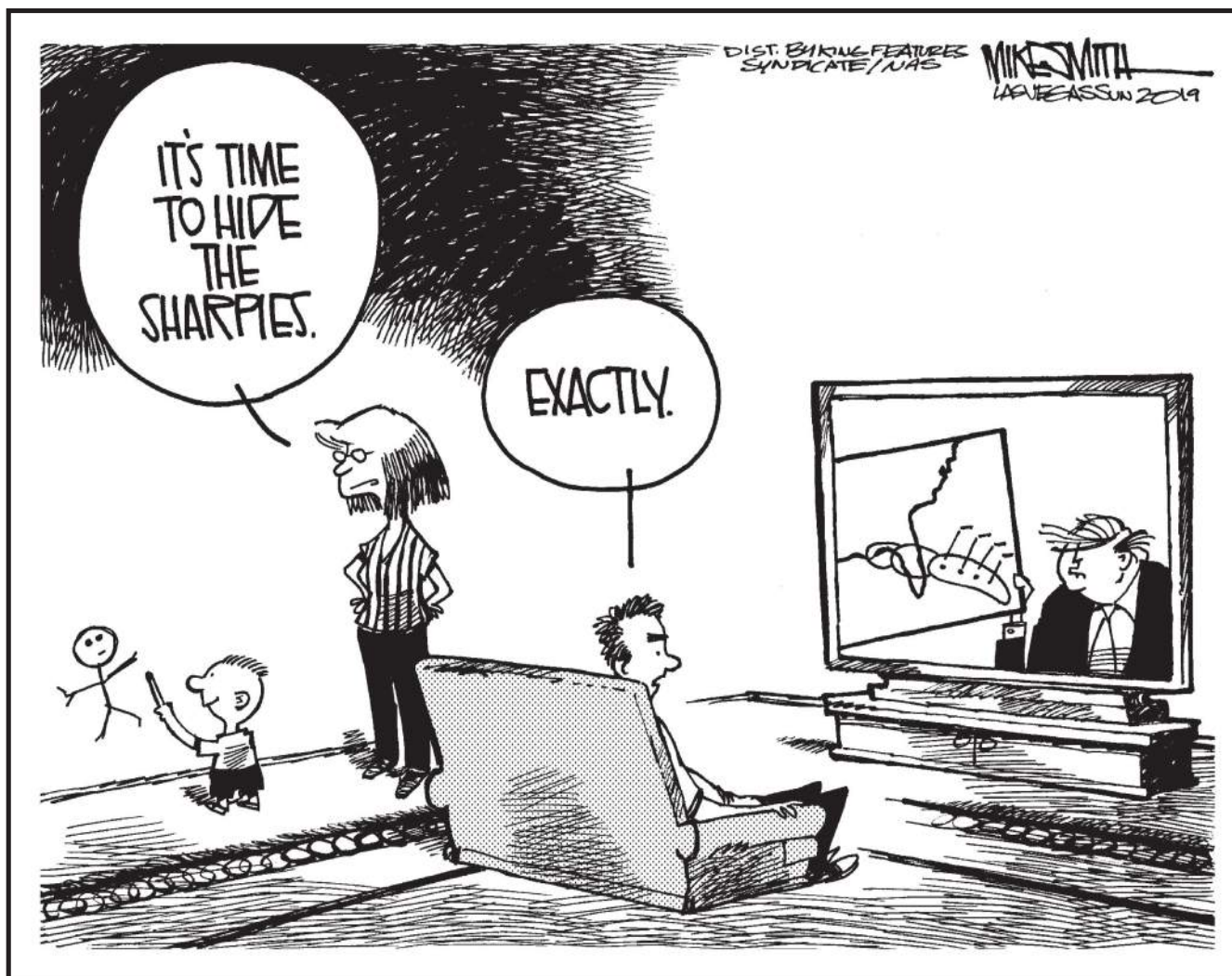
And it's striking how confident we felt with a Category 5 hurricane just over the horizon, especially since just a few days earlier, Dorian had been a fastball aimed at us. While the National Hurricane Center's forecasting has improved, it could stand to improve some more.

At first, it looked like Dorian would pummel Puerto Rico, just as Hurricane Maria did two years ago. But because of atmospheric steering currents, the still-struggling island territory escaped with a glancing blow.

The same cannot be said for the Bahamas, where the death toll is still being determined and the extent of the damage has yet to be quantified, though it's clearly enormous.

It had to have been horrible to be there. You can only imagine the terror of enduring a Category 5 hurricane packing sustained winds of 180 mph—and gusts above 200 mph—for nearly two days.

People say a hurricane sounds like a freight train. Imagine being surrounded by that ferocious, relentless sound for hours and hours on end, never knowing which crashing sound will create a catastrophe that makes you have to find—perhaps on your belly, because walking is impossible in the wind—a new place to hide.

See **IMAGINE** on Next Page

Remembering what's important

Master Sgt. Luis F. DeLeon-Figueroa and Master Sgt. Jose J. Gonzalez. Those names might not be that familiar to most. But their families, friends and fellow soldiers won't forget them. The two Americans were killed in combat in Afghanistan last week, U.S. officials said, which brings the total killed this year to 14, one more than all of last year.

This is the news that disappears quickly from the headlines, as politicians and pundits try to make sense of just what happened at the G-7 meeting in France, for instance, and the latest chaos at the top. When the Amazon is burning, and the president of the United States skips the climate change meeting, as his buddy Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro takes time to insult the wife of the host country's leader, it's more distracting than usual.

But it is still astonishing how little attention the 18-year American engagement in Afghanistan seems to attract in the country's consciousness and conversation. Perhaps that's because the volunteer military allows so many to put that particular kind of service out of mind.

The families of the men and women who choose to serve don't have that luxury.

However, even those who don't have a loved one deployed to a hot spot should be paying attention for what is and is not happening. Negotiations continue on an agreement that would bring U.S. troops home if the Taliban promises to cut al-Qaida ties, and to prevent terrorist groups from gaining a foothold. Sticking points have reportedly been over U.S. demands for a Taliban cease-fire and a pledge for talks with Afghan officials. Though usually a Trump supporter, Sen. Lindsey Graham wants to ensure America's national security is not jeopardized.

Active-duty military and veterans are also being drawn into the politically contentious issue of immigration. Sweeping changes in immigration policy announced this summer include a review of the "parole in place."

"Parole in place enables a soldier serving in Afghanistan, for instance, not to worry that a spouse at home who entered the U.S. illegally might be thrown out of the country while the soldier is deployed," reported NPR. "The procedures are changing as the U.S. government ramps up enforcement proceedings, including against veterans and their family members—sometimes in ways that violate the government's own procedures."

Changes in the "public charge" rules, which make attaining status more difficult, even for legal residents who use certain government programs, also could affect veterans and their families. Pro Publica reported that "the rule is so sloppily written that it ended up treating immigrants who are married to U.S. citizens

By **MARY C. CURTIS**
CQ-Roll Call

Roll Call columnist Mary C. Curtis has worked at The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, The Charlotte Observer and as national correspondent for Politics Daily. Follow her on Twitter @mcurtisnc3.



more harshly than immigrants married to noncitizens."

"Active-duty service members who are immigrant noncitizens are allowed to use benefits without having it weigh against them as a 'public charge' in the future. So are the family members of active-duty immigrant service members. But immigrants who are the spouses or children of active-duty service members who are U.S. citizens are not included in the exception, meaning their use of benefits while their spouses were on active duty could jeopardize their future in the U.S."

You don't have to speculate about the effect of such worries on military readiness for those who already have plenty to be concerned about.

The military has been one institution that has represented the diversity of the country. The Council on Foreign Relations last year reported 2016 figures that among enlisted recruits, 43% of men and 56% of women were Hispanic or a racial minority.

It's a tribute to their patriotism that minorities, since this country's founding, have chosen the military despite discrimination they may face in society or service. There is a cost in morale and more when division and partisanship seem to infect every corner of the American political scene.

Stories about the latest additions to a sad casualty list honored the lives of the two Green Berets. DeLeon-Figueroa, 31, of Chicopee, Massachusetts, leaves his fiancée, two young daughters and a step-daughter. He was described as "good-natured," and someone who "overcame challenges." Gonzalez, 35, of La Puente, California, is survived by his wife, Brenda, and two children, according to a verified GoFundMe campaign set up in his honor; he was a veteran of seven deployments and was previously wounded.

"It was an honor having them serve within the ranks. ... They were a part of our family, and will not be forgotten," said Col. John W. Sannes, 7th Group commander, in a statement.

America owes it to them, and all who serve bravely despite the risks, to resist the distraction — and remember, too.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My only focus

Hafa adai and tirow Marianas. For the last few months, several fake profiles and accounts of me have been all over Facebook and social media. Friends and many concerned residents have informed me of fake profiles messaging them on Facebook.

Let me set the record straight. I rarely message people via Facebook Messenger. If you have received a message from a fake account that is not coming from this account, “Ralph DLG. Torres,” please report that account to Facebook. Federal and local law enforcement have been notified and will prosecute individuals caught doing this.

Look, I don’t have the time to post on Facebook every hour like some people who have more time on their hands. I use this Facebook account to share announcements, policy initiatives, and updates on some of our Commonwealth’s important issues and concerns. I use it intentionally with a focus on inspiring and encouraging everyone in our tightly-knit community, *manhoben* to *man’anko*, to be a part of the solutions and to create more progress for our community. I use social media to make positive friendships and genuine connections with people who have helped me be a better governor.

Over the last three years, my administration and I worked hard to grow our economy, increase benefits, increase budgets for the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Department of Public Safety and law enforcement, raise salaries for government employees and front-line law enforcement, strengthen our enforcement for the War on Ice, help drug offenders rehabilitate and get back on their feet for their families, reduced our deficit by over 70 percent, paid off long awaited land compensation, develop our U.S. workforce, help 2,560 small businesses (and counting) open shop, provide more money for scholarships so that our young, bright students can come back home to serve and realize their dreams here at home, and create stronger financial security.

Then the typhoons came, and we all know where are now because of it.

I’m not interested in campaigning and politics right now. With all these fake accounts that I’m seeing, there are people out there who are using dirty politics to create division within our com-

munity. I thought we had an election a year ago.

Let me be clear. My focus, my only focus is to fix our finances, continue our recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, get us out of austerity, release our tax rebate and remaining child tax checks soon, and replenish the funding for PSS, NMC, CHCC, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the rest of our departments and agencies.

Around our community I hear concerns. I understand that our community wants responsibility, accountability, and prosperity that reaches everyone. I hear you, and I am with you.

As your governor, I will continue to work hard for you in order to protect the progress we have made together and to protect our long-term vision of a future with stronger homes and infrastructure, a diversified economy focused on high-end tourism, technology, and local agriculture; better zoning; a revitalized Garapan; true tourism on Tinian and Rota; safer villages free from drugs; a Northern Marianas College that can become a four-year university of research, learning, and workforce development; a more cost-efficient medical referral program; and a CHCC that can treat loved ones with cancer here at home. These and many more initiatives my administration have been working on for all of us.

The work to get us back to where we were before the typhoon is

By RALPH DLG. TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG. Torres is the 9th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the youngest governor in the United States.



beyond politics, and I’m not interested in campaigning right now.

We will continue to work for the vision I have shared with you, but I know that reaching these goals will take time and the effort of every person who calls these islands home to see it through. And I know we’ll get there, because we’ve done it before. All of us working together over many years—we chose to make progress. And if we can remind ourselves and appreciate that it takes a home, a village, an island, and a Commonwealth to restart our progress, we will find that it is easier to believe that our islands will recover stronger than any storm.

In honor of grandparents

Last Sunday, Sept. 8, was Grandparent’s Day. In honor of the occasion, here is a continuation of my T.O.A.S.T: Timeless Old Age Senior Tales.

Ti Nayuyut Para Todo Tatan Bihu Yan Nanan Biha Siha

Everyone is praying for our grandparents

Yes, all our parent’s parents are great and grand to them the world’s cultures show deep respetu yan todu kultura comprende and understand this is mas importante from nieta yan nieta.

You know they look a little bit like Mom and Dad or do my Mom and Dad look a lot like them? I heard some manaina say they’re feeling very bad some grandparents have a hearing and vision problem.

They led difficult lives and worked hard every day on farms and in their yards, hauled a lot of water at fiesta times they took some time to enjoy and play and teach kultura yan kustumbre to son and daughter.

Now they are old, some getting quiet and mellow Happy Grandparent’s Day to guella yan guello.

Old Age Day? or Getting Older and Aged Day?

We have National Senior Citizen’s Day on August twenty-first then there is Grandparent’s Day on the 8th day of September but there is one more holiday for old timers for which I thirst maybe between Senior and Grandparent’s Day is easy to remember. We could call it Old Age Day or even Getting Older and Aged Day sometime during the seasons of autumn or winter might be appropriate some folks are Juniors by name, some won’t become grandparents anyway a day for when one realizes parts of mind and body are starting to quit. A day when you can say, I’m in my old age, I’m really getting older Your losing your head hair, it is gone already, or your dying it

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Slavery in the CNMI

Northern Marianas International School students are amazed to learn in their study of American history that 2019 marks the 400th year since slavery began in the United States. They are surprised to learn that the Declaration of Independence did not materialize until more than 100 years later and that it did not include consideration of the plight of the slaves.

The students are thrilled to learn that a century later the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves and led to the banishment of slavery in the United States. However, they are astounded to

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



your physical and sexual activity is decreasing, not getting any bolder the business of eating less? exercising more? you’re not even trying it. So as your short term memory banks fail there is nothing can prevent ya from forgetting where you put this and that at onset of senile dementia.

GRANDPARENTS: BOOMER SONNETS

Written at Blythe, CA Huck Finn Festival on Jan. 18, 2013. This poem was published in the Saipan Tribune several years ago.

Do you remember your grandparents, even the in-laws?
Both sides from your biological mother and dad?
Did you have special names for them, ‘Opa,’ ‘Mamaw,’ and ‘Papaw’?
Did they always hug and comfort you when you were sad?

Did they favor an older sister or a younger brother?
Were some dead before you were born or soon after?
Did they give you all the same presents or one thing then another?
When they came by did you know you were in for laughter?

Are you one now? Do your grandkids live very far away?
Do you enjoy the drive to see them, like to watch them play?
Are your kids not too happy when for a week you’ll stay?
Are your grandkids the smartest and cutest no matter what others say?

So Gramps, Grams, grumpy Grandpa, and gentle Grammies
enjoy your grandkids, sunburned, dirty, or in their jammies.

learn that the practice of slavery is allowed and alive in the CNMI. When a court convicts a person of a crime, that person may be treated as a slave throughout her/his incarceration. Even though the person pays her debt by fine and serving a sentence and probation, the long-term effects keep the person from contributing to our tight-knit community and, thereby, makes every sentence a life sentence, given the impact on voting and finding employment.

The students are inspired to learn that the Office of the Governor, through its authority to grant pardons, can emancipate and free those convicted.

John B. Joyner, Ph.D.

Principal, NMIS
Marianas Business Plaza

IMAGINE

From Page 10

Imagine the terror of having your roof blow off, of watching your apartment flood with storm surge, of wondering whether you and your family will make it out alive.

That is what our battered and bruised neighbors in the Bahamas emerged from Tuesday, as most of us were getting out of bed.

As the people of South Florida well know, in times of hurricanes, we put aside our differences and come together as a community. Neighbors lean on neighbors—from helping install shutters, to buying groceries for shut-ins to keeping a watchful eye on the homes of evacuees.

And you can’t live in diverse South Florida without grasping that our neighborhood includes the Caribbean, whose many cultures have so enriched our own.

So it is right for us—as individuals, as a community and as a nation—to lend a helping hand to our island neighbors, who face a years-long road to recovery.

Across the region, people are donating their hurricane supplies—water, canned foods, flashlights, batteries, clothes, bedding, towels and other essentials—to help our neighbors.

Financial donations help most of all. That way, people who know what’s needed can get the relief where it’s needed.






Federal assistance also will be needed to stabilize the island nation. Not only is federal aid the humane thing to do, it’s in our community’s self-interest. Florida saw a lot of in-migration after Hurricane Maria and the earthquake in Haiti, not because our island neighbors wanted to leave their homes, but because there was no way to live there and there was no hope for change.

There’s more to say about Dorian, including some close-to-home lessons about nursing homes, shelter staffing and gas supplies.

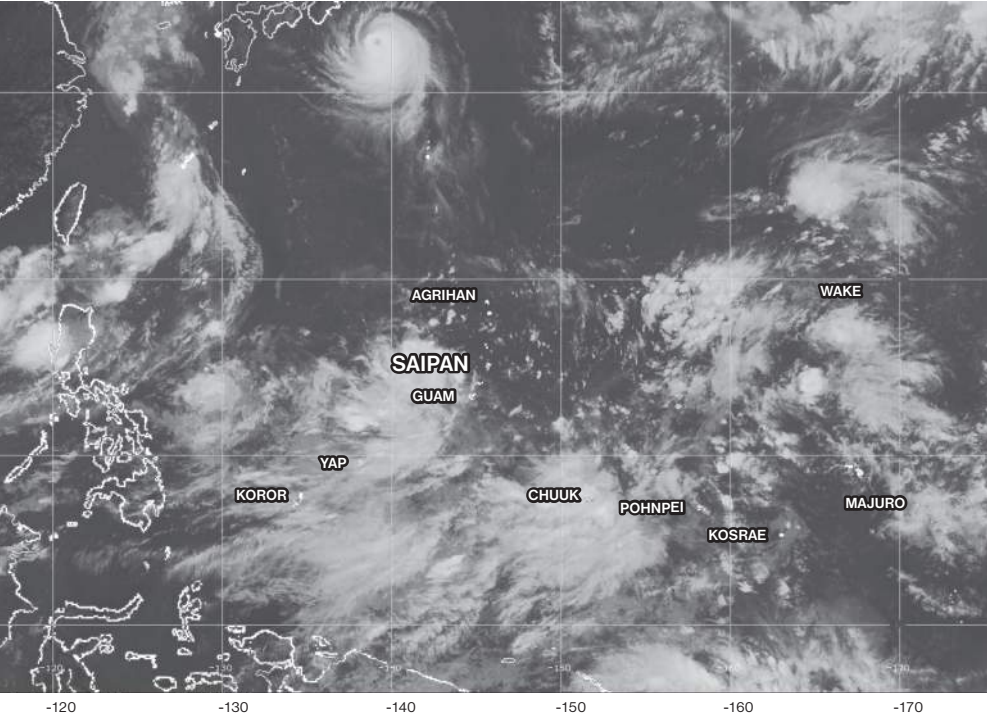
But for today, let us simply express gratitude that our community was spared. And encourage everyone’s support for a neighbor who wasn’t.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Breezy. Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Northeasterly winds, showers and thunderstorms prevail over the Marianas this morning. A Wet weather pattern will persist through much of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 75°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°	
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 78°	
London	Showers	64° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	76° / 65°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	91° / 79°	
Paris	Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Busan	Rain	81° / 73°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°	
Salem	Sunny	93° / 67°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	68° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Tokyo	Sunny	91° / 77°	
Washington, DC	Showers	78° / 68°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:10 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.62	
10:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.15	
6:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76	
11:36 PM	LOW TIDE	1.17	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:46 AM	3:05 PM
Tuesday	-	2:37 AM	3:53 PM
Wednesday	-	3:28 AM	4:37 PM
Thursday	-	4:18 AM	5:18 PM
Friday	-	5:07 AM	5:57 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

USCIS eyes new timeline for EAD requests of asylum applicants

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday a proposed regulation for granting or denying an initial application for employment authorization documents of asylum applicants by reforming the current 30-day timeline.

These proposed changes are intended to give USCIS the time needed to receive, screen, and process applications, which in turn would strengthen national security, maintain technological advances in identity verification, and fur-

ther deter those who may be attempting to defraud the legal immigration system under an improved process.

The original 30-day timeline was enacted more than 20 years ago. Since then, there have been additional requirements in background screening and vetting procedures to reduce fraud and identify threats to national security and public safety.

"Established before 9/11, this processing timeline does not reflect the operational realities USCIS currently faces

when adjudicating employment authorization applications," said acting USCIS director Ken Cuccinelli. "Our first priority as an agency is to safeguard the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system from those who seek to exploit or abuse it. This proposal allows us to conduct the kind of systematic vetting and identity verification procedures expected of an agency charged with protecting national security."

Initial applications for employment authorization from pending asylum applicants are the only category of em-

ployment authorization applications adjudicated by USCIS that have a required processing timeline attached to them. Because of this, the agency must frequently divert resources away from other legal immigration application processing categories in order to meet the 30-day deadline for asylum seekers. These categories include family members of certain high skilled employees and those seeking adjustment of status in the United States, among others.

USCIS is also proposing to change the provision requiring

that applicants submit their renewal requests to USCIS 90 days before the expiration of their employment authorization. This would reduce confusion regarding employment authorization renewal requirements for pending asylum applicants, minimize potential gaps in employment, and ensure consistency with the 2017 American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act of 2000 Rule and implementing policies.

(Editor's Note: Saturday's USCIS announcement did not say whether the 30-day timeline will be lengthened

or shortened but it appears adjudication will take more than the 30 days set by law.) For more details, read the Notice of Proposed Rule Making. It will be published in the Federal Register today, Sept. 9, 2019. USCIS encourages public feedback on the proposed rule before the comment period ends on Nov. 8, 2019.

For more information on USCIS and our programs, visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), Instagram (/uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Facebook (/uscis), and LinkedIn (/uscis). (USCIS)

NEWS BRIEFS

WIA closed on Sept. 9-11

The CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency would like to inform the public, partners, and participants that WIA will be closed for annual federal reporting and system updates from today, Sept. 9, through Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019. Normal operations will resume on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019. WIA thanks the community for its patience and understanding. (PR)

Military training in Guam, FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Sept. 9-12, from 11am to 11:55pm at the Dandan-Malojloj training sight in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will conduct joint training with the 644th Combat Communications Squadron from midnight to noon on Sept. 9-16 in Radio Barrigada.

HSC-25 will also conduct training from 6:30pm to 11:55pm on Sept. 11 in Radio Barrigada.

HSC-25 will conduct training from 7pm to 11pm on Sept. 9 in Agat Bay.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed, if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training, often accompanied with the use of blanks, can occur during these trainings.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ From 10:30am to 5pm, Sept. 9

■ From 10:30am to 2:30pm, Sept. 10

■ From 10:30am to 5pm, Sept. 11

■ From 10:30am to 2:30pm, Sept. 12

■ From 10:30am to 2:30pm, Sept. 13

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. (PR)

More Guam tax refunds out

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—

Today, the Department of Revenue & Taxation and the Department of Administration will mail 693 tax refund checks totaling approximately \$1.8 million, including refunds garnished to repay government debts, for error-free returns filed on or before Feb. 20, 2019. For inquiries, contact the Income Tax Branch at the Department of Revenue & Taxation at 635-1840 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at 475-1250. (PR)

Power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, from 9am to 1pm. This sectionalized outage on Kiya 3 will affect China Town (Commonwealth Drive, Nimitz Ln., Linao Ln., Legislature Ln., World War II Ln., Congress Ln., Uruwow Ln., Secretary Ln., Komiti Av., Matsue St., partials of Husga Av., Saina Pl., Freedom Drive, Justice Pl., Convention Pl., Politic Ln., Covenant Ln., and Village Ln). The As Falape water well service area will also be affected but no wastewater service areas.

This will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace a rotted primary power pole and resag low primary lines in the China Town.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (PR)

Two Travis airmen selected for RPA pilot program

Editor's Note: Surnames are withheld to comply with Air Force guidelines on the disclosure of identifying information for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance personnel.

TRAVIS AIR FORCE

BASE, Calif.—A C-5M Super Galaxy flight engineer and a flight line expediter at Travis Air Force Base were among the 24 airmen selected to become Enlisted Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilots earlier this month when the 2019 ERPA selection board results were announced.

Tech. Sgt. Ron, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight line expediter, applied to become an RPA pilot three times. He said he was relieved to finally make the cut.

"I was getting used to applying and not being selected," he said. "This year, I got off shift and I looked up the selection list from home. I saw I was the fourth name on the list. I was just like, 'Wow, I finally got it.'"

"I was happy, but kind of relieved because I've put in a lot of hard work to get my private pilot license, my instrument rating and I put in a lot of hours," he said. "I really wanted it, so I was relieved to finally see I was selected."

In 2015, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the service would train enlisted pilots to operate the RQ-4 Global Hawk, which conducts high-altitude reconnaissance missions up to 60,000 feet. The 2019 Enlisted RPA Pilot Selection Board convened Jan. 14-18 and considered 31 active-duty enlisted candidates. To date, 66 airmen have been selected to become RPA pilots and Ron said he's thrilled to be one of them.

"I want to be a pilot, I love aviation," he said. "Aircraft maintenance is a very rewarding job, but I'm ready for more responsibility."

Ron grew up in the village of Finasisu on the small island of Saipan. In July 2009, he



U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JAMES HODGMAN

Tech. Sgt. Ron, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron expediter, poses for a photo near a C-17 Globemaster III Feb. 19, 2019 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Ron was one of two Travis airmen selected to become enlisted remotely piloted aircraft pilots during the 2019 selection cycle. The Air Force conducted the first enlisted RPA training course in October 2016. Photo altered for security purposes.

enlisted in the Air Force and served his first four years as a flying crew chief on the C-17 Globemaster III.

"I never realized being a pilot could even be a possibility until my time as a flying crew chief," he said. "I observed what the pilots did and said to myself, 'I can do that.'"

Ron has accumulated more than 2,000 hours as a flying crew chief supporting missions all over the world on five deployments. He also earned his private pilot license in May 2018.

"Flying provides a different kind of freedom," he said. "As a pilot, you're responsible for your safety and the safety of anyone flying with you. You're focused on the plane and everything associated with navigating to your destination safely."

He said he's looking forward to increasing his knowledge as an RPA pilot.

"I'm really looking forward to learning," he said. "In your job you get to a certain level and things kind of come easier to you. I've been doing this job for nearly 10 years so when something comes up, I usually have an answer pretty quickly. This opportunity will force me to learn a new job and challenge myself. That will be cool."

Joining Ron on that journey will be Staff Sgt. Stacy, 22nd Airlift Squadron NCO in charge of supply, a C-5M Super Galaxy flight engineer and the second Airman selected from Travis to be an ERPA pilot.

"I was so excited when I found out I was selected," said Stacy. "I printed the selection roster and immediately went to talk to my commander. I said, 'Sir, you need to read this' and I handed him the selection roster. My name was the last one on the list and he was just as excited as I was."

Stacy also shared the news with his wife, co-workers, friends and family.

"Being selected is a huge honor and I'm so thankful for this opportunity," he said. "Now, I'm ready to go."

The application process to become an ERPA pilot is extensive. Applicants must pass a flight physical, the Basic Aviation Skills test, the Enlisted Pilot Qualification Test and be recommended by their commander.

Stacy credits his squadron commander, Lt. Col. Paul Pawluk, with giving him the motivation to apply for the program.

"When he arrived in the squadron, he said, 'You have a choice. You can either be

someone or do something. But it's very difficult to do both,' Stacy explained. "Maybe I won't make chief master sergeant, but I have an opportunity here to do something, and if other airmen are interested in applying to become RPA pilots in the future, I'll be able to advise them on things they can do to help them along the way."

Stacy, a native of Fresno, California, enlisted in the Air Force in August 2008 as an engine mechanic. In April 2014, he retrained into the C-5M flight engineer career field and arrived at Travis in January 2015.

He said serving as a flight engineer enabled him to gain the experience he needed to apply for the ERPA program.

"The job really is one of the hidden gems of the Air Force," he said. "As a flight engineer, you back up the pilots, you help read approach plates and review certain flight rules. It's a lot of responsibility."

Enlisted RPA pilot training begins with Initial Flight Training in Colorado followed by the Remote Pilot Instrument Qualification Course at Randolph AFB, Texas, and practical training at Beale AFB, California.

Ron said he hopes, with the success of the ERPA program, the Air Force will open more flying opportunities to enlisted airmen.

"We place a tremendous amount of trust in our enlisted airmen every day," he said. "This is another way for Air Force leaders to allow enlisted airmen to reach their full potential. Many airmen have private pilot licenses, as well as bachelors or advanced degrees. There are also many airmen out there who are capable of so much more. I think this could be an initial step to more enlisted pilot opportunities."

Stacy agrees.

"Why not?" he asked. "If our airmen meet the standards, then why not allow them to fly different platforms and do more?"

Business

Celebrate Korean Thanksgiving at Hyatt

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Korean Thanksgiving or Chuseok is a time to give thanks to a good harvest and a time spent with family and friends to honor ancestors.

It is also celebrated by indulging in scrumptious dishes especially cooked to honor this occasion.

Without actually flying to Korea, Hyatt Regency Saipan brings to the island the best dishes served during this ancient tradition on Sept. 12, 13, and 14 at Kili Terrace & Café from 6pm to 9pm.

For two years now, Korea native, chef Shawn Lee, leads in perfecting the Chuseok Nights menu in collaboration with executive chef Hartmut Kehm, who is also familiar with Korean dishes as he worked at Hyatt in Busan for almost three years.

"We have different menus for the three nights. The first night we will be serving imperial food, second night Chuseok traditional food and last night is a homage to my hometown Jeju Island," Lee said.

"Each night we guarantee different tastes and flavor and to enjoy the whole Chuseok experience, we suggest that



Hyatt Regency Saipan chef Shawn Lee and executive chef Hartmut Kehm collaborates on Korean dishes to be served on Chuseok Nights at the Kili Terrace & Cafe on Sept. 12, 13, and 14.

guests come to the three nights to experience the Korean traditional holiday dishes that we will meticulously prepare," Lee added.

A sneak peek at the menu will definitely liven up your appetite because Lee prepared a full circle of dishes from appetizers to the main course and dessert.

"The lineup of appetizers include Korean cabbage and

white radish kimchi, fresh salmon and vegetables rolls paired with chili sauce, three kinds of pancake rolls made from spinach, carrots, and buckwheat. Our guests will be in for a treat as we will also serve jap chae or glass noodles with beef and vegetables and soy and ginger marinated crabs," Lee said.

Japchae is a "friendly" dish to work out an appetite as

Lee prepares this not spicy, filled with toppings most people are familiar with and the glass noodles are so soft that it glides in your mouth without having the need to chew it hard.

The soy and ginger marinated crab is definitely unique as they serve the crab raw. One may hesitate to try this but the experience is worth it. Lee makes sure that you will taste the kick of the ginger that goes well with the buttery flavor of



BEA CABRERA

A staple in Chuseok celebration is the Korean-style braised beef with root vegetables.

the crab meat.

For the main dishes, Lee named Korean-style braised beef with root vegetables, stir-fried spicy pork and vegetables, assorted pancake and skewers, and steamed king prawn with vegetables as a part of the menu among others. "Korean dishes doesn't scrimp on ingredients and there are no short cuts and we follow that so our guests will enjoy every bite," he said.

The Korean-style braised beef is an example of a dish carefully prepared many hours before it is served. Lee cooked the meat so tender giving a succulent and melt-in-your mouth kind of meat. The flavors from the root vegetables such as carrots and potatoes give the dish that earthy flavor

that will soothe you after a long day.

Lee said he hopes that guests will save room for dessert because they will serve *gyesang yakgwa* or sweet rice cake ball, vegetable *jung-gwa* (braised radish with syrup), and walnut ice cream. The sweet rice cake ball is the perfect combination of sweet and salty and the use of radish as dessert is genius as it is also the perfect combination of sweet and earthy flavor.

Known for going an extra mile to prepare dishes is Hyatt Regency's signature that will surely make Chuseok Nights a wonderful experience for everyone. For reservations, call (670) 234-1234 ext. 26 or visit their website: saipan.regency.hyatt.com

Modest hiring enough to fuel sluggish but durable US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hiring by U.S. employers was slower but steady in August, and hourly pay jumped—trends that should sustain the U.S. economy's record-long expansion in the coming months.

Yet with the economy still under threat from a weak global economy and President Donald Trump's trade war with China, Chairman Jerome Powell made clear Friday that the Federal Reserve is poised to cut interest rates.

The government's jobs report Friday showed that U.S. employers, for now, are still adding jobs at a modest pace. Hiring did slow to 130,000 jobs in August, below the average pace of the past six months.

The unemployment rate stayed at 3.7% for a third straight month, near the lowest level in five decades. And more Americans entered the workforce in August, a positive development that increased the proportion of adults who are either working or seeking work to its highest level since February.

Still, the impact of the trade war, which has yet to be fully

felt by consumers and retailers, could soon inflict damage. The Trump administration has just imposed 15% tariffs on about one-fifth of Chinese imports and plans to impose another such round of import taxes on Dec. 15.

All those tariffs will fall on consumer goods ranging from clothes and toys to electronics and sporting goods, likely raising prices for shoppers and shrinking retailers' narrow profit margins.

Trump's previous import taxes had fallen mainly on parts and components used by manufacturers. The additional costs imposed by those tariffs and the threats of additional ones have caused businesses to cut back their spending. In addition, retaliatory tariffs from China have cut into U.S. exports.

All that has left consumers as the most important driver of U.S. economic growth. And for now, Americans are still spending. Consumer spending rose in the April-June quarter by the most in five years and also increased at a healthy clip in July. Average hourly pay rose 11 cents

in August to \$28.11, up 3.2% from a year earlier, easily ahead of inflation.

"With slower, but still-solid job gains and good wage growth, households will continue to spend," Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC, said. "The U.S. economy should avoid recession."

Over the past six months, employers have added an average of 150,000 jobs, down from an average of 223,000 last year. Even so, job gains at that pace are enough to lower the unemployment rate over time.

Last month's job gains were boosted by the temporary addition of 25,000 government workers for the 2020 Census. Excluding all government hiring, the economy added just 96,000 jobs in August, the fewest since May.

One reason hiring is slipping is that with the unemployment rate so low, companies are having a harder time finding qualified workers. The solid wage gain in August suggests that more businesses are deciding that they need to offer higher pay to attract and keep employees.

American Airlines mechanic accused of sabotaging flight

MIAMI (AP)—An American Airlines mechanic charged with sabotaging a plane because he was upset over stalled labor contract negotiations was fired from another airline several years ago and briefly had his mechanic's license suspended, according to court documents.

Abdul-Majeed Marouf Ahmed Alani appeared in federal court in Miami on Friday on a charge of willfully damaging or disabling a plane. Federal investigators say he admitted to tampering with a part that provides vital flight information to pilots.

The pilots aborted the July 17 flight before takeoff in Miami. Alani, 60, was arrested Thursday. He had worked for American since 1988 but was suspended after his arrest.

Court records from a lawsuit in California indicate that for some years, Alani worked both for American and Alaska Airlines until Alaska fired him in 2008 after several errors including failing to verify that repairs were working and installing the wrong battery on a plane. The Federal Aviation

Administration suspended his mechanic's certificate for 30 days, according to court documents.

Alani, who was born in Iraq and became a U.S. citizen in 1992, sued Alaska Airlines for discrimination based on national origin. A judge dismissed the lawsuit for lack of evidence.

The lawsuit and Alani's firing by Alaska were first reported by Business Insider.

In Miami on Friday, Alani wore shackles and tan jail clothes as he spoke to Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan through an Arabic interpreter. Mostly, he answered basic questions about his assets and whether he could afford a lawyer. The judge appointed a public defender and scheduled a bond hearing for next Wednesday and an arraignment hearing on Sept. 20.

According to American, Alani is proficient in English.

Nothing in the criminal complaint against Alani suggests any link to terrorism, and prosecutors did not indicate that any such charges are pending.

When interviewed Thursday by investigators, "Alani stated that his intention was not to cause harm to the aircraft or its passengers," according to the affidavit by Jose A. Ruiz, a federal air marshal who serves on an FBI terrorism task force.

Alani explained that stalled contract negotiations between American Airlines and the mechanics' unions were hurting him financially—he said in court that he has two cars but few other assets besides property in the Sarasota, Florida, area worth about \$5,500.

Alani said he tampered with the plane "to cause a delay or have the flight canceled in anticipation of obtaining overtime work," Ruiz wrote.

The incident occurred before an American Airlines Boeing 737 was scheduled to fly from Miami to Nassau in the Bahamas with 150 people on board. As the pilots powered up the plane at Miami International Airport, they saw an error message for a system that tracks speed, nose direction and other critical flight information and aborted the takeoff.

Nation

NOAA assailed for defending Trump's Hurricane Dorian claim

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former top officials of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are assailing the agency for undermining its weather forecasters as it defends President Donald Trump's statement from days ago that Hurricane Dorian threatened Alabama.

They say NOAA's action risks the credibility of the nation's weather and science agency and may even risk lives.

Dismay came from those who served under Republican and Democratic presidents alike as leaders in meteorology and disaster response sized up a sustained effort by Trump and his aides to justify his warning that Alabama, among other states, was "most likely" to be hit hard by Dorian, contrary to forecasts showing Alabama was clear.

That effort led NOAA to repudiate a tweet from the National Weather Service the previous weekend assuring Alabamans — accurately — that they had nothing to fear from the hurricane. The weather service is part of NOAA and the tweet came from its Birmingham, Alabama, office.

"This rewriting history to satisfy an ego diminishes NOAA," Elbert "Joe" Friday, former Republican-appointed director of the National Weather Service, said on Facebook. He told The Associated Press on Saturday: "We don't want to get the point where science is determined by politics rather than science



President Donald Trump listens during a briefing on Hurricane Dorian in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019, in Washington.

and facts. And I'm afraid this is an example where this is beginning to occur."

Alabama had never been included in hurricane advisories and Trump's information, based on less authoritative graphics than an official forecast, was outdated even at the time.

In the tempestuous aftermath, some meteorologists spoke on social media of protesting when the acting NOAA chief, Neil Jacobs, is

scheduled to speak at a National Weather Association meeting Tuesday — in Huntsville, Alabama.

Former officials saw a political hand at work in NOAA's statement disavowing the Birmingham tweet. The statement was issued by an anonymous "spokesperson," a departure from the norm for federal agencies that employ people to speak for them by name.

"This falls into such un-

charted territory," said W. Craig Fugate, who was Florida emergency management chief under Republican Gov. Jeb Bush and director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under Democratic President Barack Obama. "You have science organizations putting out statements against their own offices. For the life of me I don't think I would have ever faced this under President Obama or Governor Bush."

Jane Lubchenco, NOAA administrator during the Obama administration said: "It is truly sad to see political appointees undermining the superb, life-saving work of NOAA's talented and dedicated career servants. Scientific integrity at a science agency matters."

The White House declined to comment Saturday when asked if it had directed NOAA to release the statement. NOAA officials also didn't respond to requests for

comment. After spending the morning at his Virginia golf club, Trump tweeted that he'd like to move on from the matter but the news media "won't leave it alone."

In an effort to address the wounds, leaders at the National Weather Service on Saturday sent a memo to employees praising their work and asserting that "we continue to embrace and uphold the essential integrity of the entire forecast process as it was applied by ALL NWS offices," an emphasis no doubt directed at forecasters chastised by the NOAA statement.

Retired Adm. David Titley, former NOAA operations chief during the Obama administration and a former meteorology professor at Pennsylvania State University said NOAA's leadership showed "moral cowardice" and officials should have resigned instead of issuing the statement. Joe Friday said he would have quit had he been in top officials' shoes.

Titley said the episode might feed distrust of forecasts that help people make life-or-death decisions whether to evacuate.

"For people who look for excuses not to take action when their lives or property are threatened ... I think this can potentially feed that," Titley said.

Former NOAA deputy administration Monica Medina, who served in the Obama and Clinton administrations, said "it will make us less safe as a country."

ACROSS THE NATION

Rough seas suspend search for final victim of boat fire

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—The search for the final victim of a boat fire off the Southern California coast has been suspended until early next week because of gusty winds and rough seas. Authorities said they also suspended efforts to salvage the Conception off of Santa Cruz Island because the conditions were expected to last through the weekend. Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Lt. Erik Raney says the Conception has been secured underwater, where it will remain until it is safe to resume the salvage operation. Thirty-four scuba divers died when the boat caught fire and sank before dawn on Monday. They were sleeping in a cramped bunkroom below the main deck and their escape routes were blocked by fire. Medical examiners say the victims appear to have died from smoke inhalation.

Researchers to discuss efforts to find Captain Cook's ship

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—Researchers looking for the vessel that 18th-century explorer Capt. James Cook used to sail around the world are holding a public meeting in Rhode Island to discuss their work. The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, which is leading the effort, is searching for the Endeavour in the har-

bor near Newport. It plans to announce the results of its current studies at 3 p.m. Sunday at Gurney's Resort in Newport. The Rhode Island organization says it found artifacts and materials at the site consistent with an 18th-century vessel. It has partnered with the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Silentworld Foundation.

Conviction overturned for ex-sailor imprisoned for 8 years

HONOLULU (AP)—The Hawaii Innocence Project says a former U.S. Navy sailor's statutory rape conviction has been overturned. The University of Hawaii's law school, where the innocence project is located, announced Friday that a state Supreme Court ruling officially sets aside the conviction of Roynes Dural. Project co-director Ken Lawson says Dural spent eight years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Dural was charged with sex assault in 2002, accused of having sex with his ex-girlfriend's daughter. Officials at the innocence project say they presented evidence that convinced the Hawaii Paroling Authority to release him on early parole while his case was appealed. Lawson says the case will go back to the trial court, where prosecutors can either dismiss it or try it again. The Honolulu prosecuting attorney's office didn't immediately comment.

Alaska's hot, dry summer leads to droughts in some areas

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—In one Alaska village, officials are barging in jugs of water and shutting off the public water supply 12 hours each day. In another, automatic flush toilets have been switched to manual flushing, and restaurants are serving meals on paper plates.

Alaska's hot, dry summer has led to extreme measures for severe drought conditions in the Native communities of Nanwalek and Seldovia in the Kenai Peninsula, prompting regional officials to issue a disaster declaration.

The arid conditions are more widespread in the vast state—exacerbated by wildfires still burning. Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, is still fielding smoke drifting from a major wildfire in the Kenai Peninsula this late in the season.

The city is considered to be in extreme drought, according to the National Integrated

Drought Information System, while the Kenai Peninsula communities are placed in the lesser severe drought category.

But Anchorage has plenty of water in its system, unlike a handful of small communities that rely on snow melt and rain like Nanwalek and Seldovia to fill their reserves. Their water shortages are acutely felt.

Such scenarios could become more common with climate warming, said Brian Brettschneider, an associate climate researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' International Arctic Research Center. That doesn't mean it will happen every year, he noted.

"But the probability of this type of summer increases with time as the earth warms," he said.

Even some recent rains didn't quench the thirsty conditions in Nanwalek and Seldovia.

"What rain we did have just

absorbed into the ground," Gwen Kvasnikoff, the tribal administrator in Nanwalek. "The water rose, and it fell again."

In an average year, the area receives nearly 9 inches of rain from June to August. This summer, it received slightly less than 3 inches.

To conserve the limited supply of water, villagers are using water from the local lagoon for flushing toilets and other nonfood uses, Kvasnikoff said.

Water in 5-gallon jugs is being shipped in to the community of nearly 300. Residents also got some help from the nearby village of Port Graham, which initially had lower-than-normal water levels in its dam until locals plugged some leaks in the system last month. With a larger watershed, that community recently offered water to Nanwalek residents, who took them up on their offer.

Asia

Utah woman arrested at Manila airport with newborn in bag

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An American woman who attempted to carry a 6-day-old baby out of the Philippines hidden inside a sling bag has been arrested at Manila's airport and charged with human trafficking, officials said Thursday.

The Philippine officials said Jennifer Erin Talbot was able to pass through the airport immigration counter on Wednesday without declaring the baby boy but was intercepted at the boarding gate by airline personnel.

Talbot was unable to produce any passport, boarding pass or government permits for the baby, airport officials said.

Public records indicate she has been living in Utah. Philippines officials previously said Talbot was from Ohio, and records indicate she has family connections there.

Property records obtained Thursday show Talbot owns a home in a suburb of Salt Lake City, and she got a traffic citation there in March. People answering the door in Sandy, Utah, declined to comment to The Associated Press.

Wearing an orange detainee shirt and handcuffs, Talbot, 43, was presented to reporters in Manila on Thursday. She kept her head low and wiped her tears at times. When reporters asked her to comment, Talbot shook her head.

Talbot had planned to board



American Jennifer Erin Talbot from Ohio is escorted after a press conference by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019.

a Delta Air Lines flight to the United States with the baby, airport officials said.

"There was really an intention to hide the baby," immigration official Grifon Medina said by telephone.

After discovering the baby, airline staff called immigration personnel, who arrested

Talbot at the airport. She was later handed over to the National Bureau of Investigation and the baby was turned over to government welfare personnel.

The NBI said Talbot presented an affidavit at the airport, allegedly from the baby's mother, identified as Maricris

Dulap, giving consent for the baby to travel to the U.S., but it had not been signed by the mother.

Officials said no government travel approval had been issued for the baby, prompting them to file human traffick-

ing charges against Talbot. The charges carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Talbot also violated at least two other laws on child abuse, kidnapping and illegal detention, the NBI said.

U.S. Embassy officials were notified of Talbot's arrest and told Philippine authorities that she has no criminal record in the U.S., NBI official Manuel Dimaano said.

Dimaano said Dulap gave her baby to Talbot in southern Davao city. He said investigators will try to determine how Talbot brought the baby out of Davao, which requires a city clearance for infants to be transported by a foreigner.

The baby's parents have been charged under a child protection law but have not been placed under arrest, although the mother has been interviewed by social welfare officers, Dimaano said.

He said Dulap told the officers that she wanted to offer her baby for adoption, and there was no indication that she had sold the baby.

Dimaano said when he and other officials asked Talbot what she intended to do with the baby, she replied that she just wanted to give it "a name and a church blessing."

Hong Kong protesters plan march to US Embassy

HONG KONG (AP)—Demonstrators in Hong Kong planned to march to the U.S. Embassy on Sunday to drum up international support for their months-long protest movement, a day after attempts to disrupt transportation to the city's international airport were thwarted by police.

The planned march from a central park to the embassy follows yet another night of clashes between police and protesters in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Hong Kong has been rocked by a summer of unrest kicked off by a proposed law that would have allowed criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Many saw the extradition bill as a glaring example of the Chinese territory's eroding autonomy since the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

Hong Kong's government promised last week to withdraw the bill—an early demand of protesters—but that has failed to appease the demonstrators, who have widened their demands to include other issues, such as greater democracy.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing's rule since Hong Kong's return

from Britain. Beijing and the entirely state-controlled media have portrayed the protests as an effort by criminals to split the territory from China, backed by hostile foreigners.

The U.S. State Department in a travel advisory Friday said Beijing has undertaken a propaganda campaign "falsely accusing the United States of fomenting unrest in Hong Kong." It said U.S. citizens and embassy staff have been the target of the propaganda and urged them to exercise increased caution.

Some U.S. lawmakers have spoken out strongly in support of the Hong Kong protesters and voiced concern about the potential for a brutal crackdown by China.

President Donald Trump, however, has indicated the U.S. would stay out of a matter he considers between Hong Kong and China. He has said he believes the U.S. trade war with China is making Beijing tread carefully.

On Saturday, Hong Kong police stopped the planned disruption at the airport with a security blitz that included checking passengers on trains and buses heading to the airport and limiting train services.

Hong Kong's airport, the world's eighth busiest, has

been a frequent target during the protests. Airport operations ran normally Saturday following the security operation.

Protesters instead staged rallies at subway stations and malls owned by the rail link operator MTR Corp., accusing it of helping police during a recent violent raid at one station.

The Prince Edward station was shut for a second day Saturday after protesters started gathering, laying white flowers and burned paper offerings at the station's exit as a sign of mourning. When protesters refused to disperse and began setting fire to debris near the station, riot police chased them and used pepper spray.

The station has been a focus this past week for protesters, who want the rail operator to release security camera footage to substantiate rumors that some people died during the police raid. Police have reiterated that there have been no deaths since the protests began in early June and slammed the online rumors as malicious.

Violent clashes separately took place at a station in Sha Tin new town, where protesters chased police officers into the control room before riot police arrived. Several people were detained.

Typhoon kills 3 in South Korea before moving to North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—One of the most powerful typhoons to ever hit South Korea swept along the country's coast on Saturday, toppling trees, grounding planes and causing at least three deaths before moving on to North Korea.

Typhoon Lingling knocked out power to more than 161,000 homes across South Korea, including on the southern island of Jeju, which was lashed by the storm overnight, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said.

After hitting Jeju, the storm remained offshore as it moved up South Korea's west coast on Saturday morning before making landfall in North Korea in the afternoon.

A 75-year-old woman in the central South Korean town of Boryeong was killed after strong winds blew her off her feet and crashed her into a wall 30 meters (yards) away, the ministry said. A 39-year-old was killed in the western city of Incheon after being

crushed by a collapsed wall at a hospital parking lot, while a 61-year-old Chinese national died in the border town of Paju after being hit by a blown-off roof tile.

South Korea's government said at least 15 people were being treated for injuries, including an elderly couple from Boryeong who were injured after steel scaffolding collapsed on their home.

The safety ministry said the storm was moving north at 60 kilometers (37 miles) per hour as of 10 p.m. Saturday while passing over North Korea. It had shrunk to a mid-strength typhoon with winds up to 29 meters (32 yards) per second, the ministry said.

Lingling packed winds of 196 kilometers (122 miles) per hour at around 6:30 a.m. on South Korea's southern coast, making the typhoon the fifth strongest to hit the country since 1959, according to South Korea's weather agency.

Residents in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang

were seen using umbrellas to shield themselves from wind and rain while struggling to walk through wet streets.

In South Korea, the storm toppled hundreds of trees and streetlamps, blew signboards off buildings and damaged traffic signs across the mainland and Jeju. At least 18 homes were flooded and 35 vessels were capsized or damaged while being evacuated at ports, and more than 100 schools were damaged, the safety ministry said. More than 200 flights were grounded at airports nationwide, while 38 people were forced to evacuate from their flooded homes in Gwangju, a city near Seoul.

Ten cars were damaged in the southern town of Namwon when a roof plate blew off an apartment building and crashed into a parking lot. A similar incident in the eastern city of Wonju left five vehicles destroyed. A large spire was knocked off a church in a commercial district in Seoul.

World

Mugabe dies; liberated Zimbabwe, then held it for 37 years

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Former Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe, an ex-guerrilla chief who took power when the African country shook off white minority rule and presided for decades while economic turmoil and human rights violations eroded its early promise, has died in Singapore. He was 95.

Mugabe enjoyed strong support from Zimbabwe's people soon after he became the first post-colonial leader of what had been British-controlled Rhodesia.

Often violent farm seizures from whites who owned huge tracts of land made him a hated figure in the West and a hero in Africa.

His successor, President Emmerson Mnangagwa,

tweeted word Friday that an "icon of liberation" had died. Mnangagwa, a long-time loyalist until Mugabe dismissed him from his Cabinet, named Mugabe as a national hero, Zimbabwe's highest posthumous honor.

He said the nation would observe an official mourning period for its late leader, "a great teacher and mentor" and a "remarkable statesman of our century." No date or other details were given.

Singapore's Foreign Ministry said it was working with Zimbabwe on arrangements to fly Mugabe's body home. In recent years, Mugabe sought medical treatment at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore.

Presidential spokesman George Charamba told The



A woman poses for a photo holding cloth featuring portraits of former Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe in Harare Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

missed Mugabe.

Forced to resign amid pressure from the military, his party and the public in November 2017.

Mugabe was defiant throughout his long life, railing against the West for what he called its neo-colonialist attitude and urging Africans to take control of their resources—a populist message that was often a hit, even as many nations on the continent shed the strongman model and moved toward democracy.

A target of international sanctions over the years, Mugabe nevertheless enjoyed acceptance among peers in Africa who chose not to judge him in the same way as Britain, the United States and other Western detractors.

"They are the ones who say they gave Christianity to Africa," Mugabe said of the West during a visit to South Africa in 2016. "We say: 'We came, we saw and we were conquered.'"

Even as old age took its toll and opposition to his rule increased, he refused to step down until the pressure became unbearable in 2017 as his former allies in the ruling

party accused him of grooming his wife, Grace, to take over—ahead of long-serving loyalists such as Mnangagwa, who was fired in November 2017 before returning to take over with the help of the military.

Spry in his impeccably tailored suits, Mugabe maintained a schedule of events and international travel during his rule that defied his advancing age, though signs of weariness mounted. He walked with a limp, fell after stepping off a plane in Zimbabwe, read the wrong speech at the opening of parliament, and appeared to be dozing during a news conference in Japan. However, his longevity and frequently dashed rumors of ill health delighted supporters and infuriated opponents who had sardonically predicted he would live forever.

"Do you want me to punch you to the floor to realize I am still there?" Mugabe told an interviewer from state television who asked him in early 2016 about retirement plans.

After the fighting between black guerrillas and the white rulers of Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was then known, ended, Mugabe reached out to whites. The self-declared Marxist stressed the need for education and built new schools. Tourism and mining flourished, and Zimbabwe was a regional breadbasket.

Iran uses advanced centrifuges, threatens higher enrichment

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Saturday said it now uses arrays of advanced centrifuges prohibited by its 2015 nuclear deal and can enrich uranium "much more beyond" current levels to weapons-grade material, taking a third step away from the accord while warning Europe has little time to offer it new terms.

While insisting Iran doesn't seek a nuclear weapon, the comments by Behrouz Kamalvandi of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran threatened pushing uranium enrichment far beyond levels ever reached in the country. Prior to the atomic deal, Iran only reached up to 20%, which itself still is only a short technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

The move threatened to push tensions between Iran and the U.S. even higher more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal and imposed sanctions now crushing Iran's economy. Mysterious attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone and other incidents across the wider Middle East followed Trump's decision.

"So far, Iran has showed patience before the U.S. pressures and Europeans' indifference," said Qassem Babaei, a 33-year-old electrician in Tehran. "Now they should wait and see how Iran achieves its goals."

Iran separately acknowledged Saturday it had seized another ship and detained

12 Filipino crewmembers, while satellite images suggested an Iranian oil tanker once held by Gibraltar was now off the coast of Syria despite Tehran promising its oil wouldn't go there.

Speaking to journalists while flanked by advanced centrifuges, Kamalvandi said Iran has begun using an array of 20 IR-6 centrifuges and another 20 of IR-4 centrifuges. An IR-6 can produce enriched uranium 10 times as fast as an IR-1, Iranian officials say, while an IR-4 produces five times as fast.

The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only 5,060 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. By starting up these advanced centrifuges, Iran further cuts into the one year that experts estimate Tehran would need to have enough material for building a nuclear weapon if it chose to pursue one.

"Under current circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of increasing its enriched uranium stockpile as well as its enrichment levels and that is not just limited to 20 percent," Kamalvandi said. "We are capable inside the country to increase the enrichment much more beyond that."

Iran plans to have two cascades, one with 164 advanced IR-2M centrifuges and another with 164 IR-5 centrifuges, running in two months as well, Kamalvandi said. A cascade is a group of centrifuges working together to more quickly enrich uranium.

Associated Press that Mugabe was readmitted to the hospital complaining of chest pains. His personal doctor, Dr. Jonathan Matenga, was flown to Singapore and with Mugabe when he died at 4:45 a.m. Friday, Charamba said.

Mugabe's popularity began to rise again after Mnangagwa failed to deliver on promises of economic recovery and appeared to take an even harsher and more repressive stance against critics. Many began to publicly say they

In the Amazon, indigenous debate how to save their lands

TEKOHAW, Brazil (AP)—Under a thatched-roof shelter in the Amazon rainforest, warriors wielding bows and arrows, elderly chieftains in face paint and nursing mothers gathered to debate a plan that some hope will hold at bay the loggers and other invaders threatening the tribes of the Tembe.

Some had travelled long distances on dirt roads that cut through the lush jungle, or in boats along a muddy brown tributary of the Amazon River, all part of a 1,080-square-mile (2,766-square-kilometer) Alto Rio Guama homeland that is officially protected but in practice under siege.

Some of the men wore a type of red face paint that signified they were ready for war. Recent clashes saw the Tembe burning the trucks and equipment of illegal loggers on their territory, which is located in a Brazilian state plagued by thousands of fires burning on cleared jungle lands.

Some saw hope in the sustainable development plan presented this week at the meeting in the village of Tekohaw. It would include drones

and other technology to curb the encroachers while helping the Tembe profit by harvesting wood, bananas and acai berries in a limited way from a part of their jungle—hopefully no faster than the jungle replenishes itself.

At one point, a group of women and children lined up to perform a call and response tribal dance that they said would help give participants strength and understanding. But many remained wary, some fearing the plan sounded too much like President Jair Bolsonaro's calls for opening indigenous lands to development as a way to spur the nation's economy.

"For us, the indigenous, this project is worrisome because we fight in favor of the protection of the territory," said Valsanta Tembê, president of Tekohaw's women's indigenous association, who wore a mask made with red dye from urucum seeds.

"How can we be in favor of a project that willingly or not will cause the cutting of our native trees?" she asked. "Our future is on the line."

Murilo Araújo, an environmental lawyer for Unifloresta, the Association for the Productive Chain of the Amazon Forest, said the mistrust is normal.

"Throughout these 500 years, they were always enslaved, sidelined. Everyone who came here always took something from them and didn't leave anything behind," he said.

"We're talking about permanent forest management so they can sustain themselves long-term, fix their roads, buy medicines and invest on their young people," he added. The products could be sold to companies around the world that sell sustainably produced goods.

He said he hoped the project could help the Tembe avoid conflict. "Right now they're having to burn (logging) trucks, which is a natural defense mechanism for them," Araújo said. "But that could have drastic consequences. It could lead to deaths. But why are they doing that? Because the authorities are taking too long to arrive."

Brazil's 900,000 indigenous people make up about 5% of the country's population and

their reservations account for about 14% of its territory. Bolsonaro has argued that such large reserves have hindered Brazil's economic interests. But the indigenous people of Latin America's largest economy have everything at stake.

"The Amazon is ending and that's why we're here—so that it doesn't end," said Lorival Tembê, the eldest chieftain, a founder of Tekohaw. "We can't let it all end: the birds, all the other animals. We're worried. We used to drink water from our river and now it's getting polluted. A lot has changed. Bolsonaro wants to end with Indians. But we're here to stand up to that."

"The world is watching what's happening in the Amazon," said his son Sergio Muxi Tembê, the current village chief.

"We know Bolsonaro doesn't like Indians. He's anti-Indian," said the chief, who wore a headdress of macaw and other feathers, orange shorts and a traditional bone bracelet on his wrist next to a Casio digital watch. "We have a different culture and that culture must be respected."

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
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Tan Siu Lin
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Q&A Yes, weight training also has nuance

Bogged down from extreme methods, and tangled up with a few injuries, she was ready to give it another shot after a long layoff.

"I'm stuck, Dre. I've tried everything!"

Situations like this are not uncommon. With the advent of social media, exposure to practices with no rationale has become a concerning issue. In fact, every single time I look into what my clients have done prior, I cringe. It's certainly not a knock on them or the people they've aligned themselves with to keep them accountable. What I'm trying to convey is, we're making it more complicated than it needs to be.

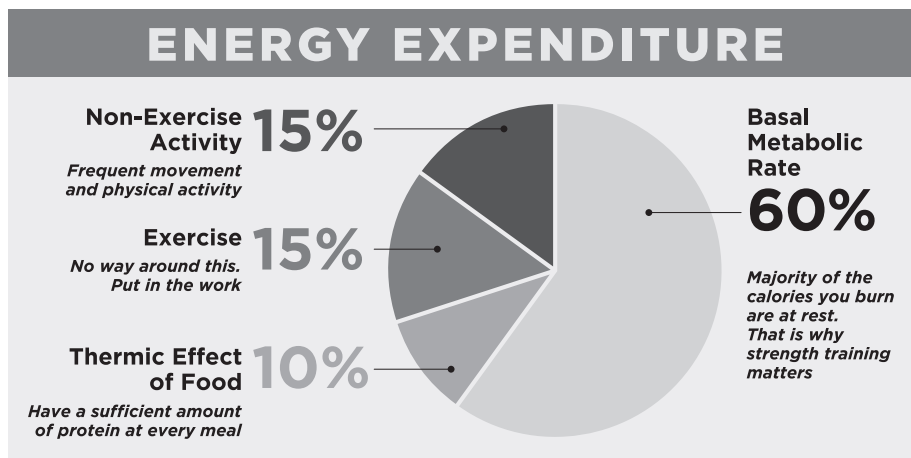
It's important to keep in mind that improving your body composition is fundamentally about consistency and discipline. Yes, it is difficult at the start. After all, meaningful changes doesn't happen overnight. But once you get a grasp of the primary tenets, you'll realize the cost of entry doesn't call for a radical shift in lifestyle.

Q: I'm reluctant to touch the weights because I don't want to get bulky. Is it okay if I stick to cardio?

A: So, let me get this straight. You think general exercise

is going to ruin your appearance? Let that question sink in for a moment.

Prioritizing cardio and the like to shed body fat is, more or less, absurd considering all the evidence supporting that intensive aerobic workouts aren't conducive to building



muscle and improving body composition.

Just to be clear, cardio is, in fact, important. And if that's your jam, roll with it. You can experience transient changes in your appearance. However, recognize it does little to nothing in shaping your body, particularly long term.

Everyone including—and especially—women can greatly

By DRE DELOS SANTOS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. Readers may send him questions at www.dredelosantos.com; he cannot make personal replies.



benefit from adding strength training to the mix.

Q: What's the first thing you try to address when someone is struggling with fat loss?

A: Most of us are aware that there has to be congruency with your training and nutrition—because it's virtually impossible to attain the health and physique you desire separating both disciplines. On top of that, though, the major nuances also have to be taken into consideration.

A common example is sleep and daily movement. It's been well-documented that poor sleep heavily impacts body composition and performance. To put things into perspective, you're shooting yourself in the foot if you're all gung ho in the gym but only getting 4-5 hours of sleep a night. In the case of daily movement, an hour in the gym doesn't counteract a day of inactivity. In other words, move more. You'd be amazed at what getting more steps can do for you.

Dre Delos Santos has spent the last six years working with people from all walks of life in Hawaii. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK and regularly contributes to TAGA Sports.



Vegan burger.

By RASHA ALI
TNS

Vegan cookies, vegan burgers, vegan water—if it seems like you're seeing vegan everywhere you go, that's because you probably are.

Even though only 3 percent of Americans identified as vegan in a recent Gallup poll, almost 20 percent of food sales came from plant-based products and the category is surpassing overall food sales.

Generally, a vegetarian avoids eating meat, poultry, shellfish—sometimes referenced as “anything with a face.” A vegan is someone who refrains from eating all animal products. So while some vegetarians eat

things such as eggs, cheese and yogurt, vegans do not eat dairy or any animal byproducts, like gelatin.

Sometimes veganism extends beyond the person's diet and into their lifestyle, with some choosing not to wear leather or silk and even feeding their pets a vegan diet. It just depends on the individual.

What the Gallup poll doesn't take into account are those who are part-time vegans or are simply reducing their intake of animal products. Sales of vegan food grew 8.1 percent from 2016 to 2017, totaling \$3.1 billion.

A primarily plant-based diet can help those looking to lose weight, but the benefits don't stop there. Studies have shown that a vegan diet can decrease the risk of stroke and heart

disease and protect against cancer.

Whether you're looking to go vegan for environmental reasons, health reasons or just because, the journey to a plant-based lifestyle doesn't have to be a daunting one.

Those who have extensive experience with vegan diets and lifestyles agree that the most important thing about trying out veganism is to come to it with an open mind and start off slowly rather than diving in headfirst.

So, be a part-time vegan and see if it's for you. You might be surprised at how little you find yourself giving up or missing from your normal diet.

Kirsten Ussery, co-owner of Detroit Vegan Soul, says that even though vegan food is never going to taste exactly like meat, you can make

it pretty similar by using the right flavors and textures, which is mostly what people are after.

Ussery and partner Erika Boyd started Detroit Vegan Soul as a meal delivery service in 2012 because of their own personal journeys and the lack of vegan options in the city. They wanted to break the cycle of disease within their families, but also didn't want to have to give up the cuisine they were raised on—soul food.

“People will enjoy good food whether it's vegan or not,” Ussery says. “We believed that given the option, more people would be interested in plant-based food once they experience it and see that the stereotypes they have about it aren't true.”

Michael Hornick, the vice presi-

dent of the Chicago Diner—meat-free since 1983—says that the transition to plant-based foods has to be small.

“It's getting people to open up and see that they can eat vegetarian and vegan without missing the flavors that they grew up on,” Hornick says.

“It's important to present the food in a way that ... isn't intimidating and is a similar experience to what they might be used to.”

Hornick understands that there's nothing comforting about trying new food, so he tries to make “something new taste like something familiar.”

The restaurant serves comfort foods like country fried steak and corned beef sandwiches—all vegan. It all comes down to making the right substitutions. By using ingredients like beans, seitan and tofu, Hornick is able to practically replicate any meat favorite as a vegan dish.

“Just give it a chance, there are plenty of vegetarian restaurants in every city—it's one meal. If you didn't like it, you're going to have another meal later,” Hornick says.

Celebrity chef Matthew Kenney, who was named one of Food & Wine magazine's Best New Chefs in 1994, has been vegan for 16 years, agrees that the transition to vegan food is only getting easier.

“One of the first things that I encourage people to do is substitute dairy with dairy alternatives—there's just so many great products on the market already, so it's an easy transition,” Kenney says.

He says he also finds vegan food the most exciting way to eat these days, given the rise in plant-based products and all the unique things chefs are learning to do with plants.

“Try it, one meal a day, one meal a week, and incorporate plants in a space where you normally wouldn't,” says Kenney. “Listen to your palate, listen to your body.”

Life & Style

Dark 'Joker' wins top Venice Film Festival prize

Todd Phillips' dark comic book film "Joker" won the Golden Lion Award at the 76th Venice International Film Festival on Saturday and cemented its place as a legitimate contender for the rest of the awards season.

Jury president Lucretia Martel announced the winners of the prestigious award during a ceremony on the Lido. The Golden Lion previously put a spotlight on films that went on to be major awards season players, such as "Roma" and the film academy's 2018 best picture winner, "The Shape of Water."

"I want to thank Warner Bros. and DC for stepping out of their comfort zone and taking such a bold swing on me and this movie," Phillips said with star Joaquin Phoenix by his side on stage.

Phoenix did not win the best actor prize—it went to Italian actor Luca Marinelli for the Jack London adaptation "Martin Eden"—but the director of "Joker" dedicated much of his speech to the talents of his leading man.

In the film, he transforms

from struggling stand-up comedian Arthur Fleck into Batman's classic nemesis.

"Thank you for trusting me with your insane talents," Phillips said to Phoenix.

Roman Polanski's Dreyfus affair film, "An Officer and a Spy," won the grand jury prize, which recognizes other strong contenders for the Golden Lion.

Polanski, who fled the U.S. after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl and has been a fugitive for over 40 years, was not at the ceremony to accept the award.

The inclusion of "An Officer and a Spy" among the 21 films competing for the Golden Lion was widely criticized, although it was welcomed warmly by Venice Film Festival audiences. Jury president Martel issued a statement saying that while she does not "separate the art from the artist," she bore no prejudice toward Polanski's film.

Roy Andersson won best director for "About Endlessness," although hip complications prevented him from



accepting the award in person.

Actress Ariane Ascaride took the best actress prize for the French domestic drama "Gloria Mundi." Olivia Colman won best actress in Venice last year for "The Favorite," and went on to win the

best actress Oscar.

Best screenplay went to Yonfan for the animated film "No. 7 Cherry Lane," about Hong Kong in 1967. He thanked Hong Kong for giving him the freedom to create.

Toby Wallace won best new talent award for his work in Shannon Murphy's "Babyteeth."

"We can't believe we're here in general, so anything extra is super nice," Wallace said.

He thanked co-stars Eliza Scanlen and Ben Mendelsohn, as well as Murphy, his director. She was one of only two female directors in the main competition.

"(Murphy) led us into this project with so much honesty," Wallace said.

Adapted from Rita Kalne-

jais' comedic stage play, "Babyteeth" is about an ill teenage girl who falls in love with a small-time drug dealer.

The jury that chose the winner of the Golden Lion and other top awards was headed by Martel, an Argentine director, and included director Mary Harron, actress Stacy Martin, cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto and Toronto International Film Festival executive director Piers Handling.

Notable films in the main competition leaving the Lido empty-handed include the Brad Pitt space epic "Ad Astra," Steven Soderbergh's Meryl Streep-led Panama Papers comedy "The Laundromat," and Noah Baumbach's divorce drama "Marriage Story," with Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver.

US actor Joaquin Phoenix, right, and US director, Todd Phillips, hold the Golden Lion award for the movie 'Joker', next to President of the Venice Biennale President Paolo Baratta during the awarding ceremony of the 76th annual Venice International Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019.

AP

The Venice Film Festival also handed out prizes to a diverse array of films in other sections, like Venice Classics, Virtual Reality and Horizons.

In Venice Classics, best documentary went to "Babenco: Tell Me When I Die," about the late Brazilian filmmaker Hector Babenco, who was known for his socially conscious works. Director Bárbara Paz said the prize was very important to her country.

"We must say 'no' to censorship," Paz said. "Long (live) freedom of expression, long (live) Brazil cinema."

"You Will Die at Twenty," from Sudanese director Amjad Aby Alala, was awarded the Luigi de Laurentiis award for a debut film.

"I'm really feeling honored and happy," Alala said. "I'm from a country that has no cinema because we are under regime that didn't want to support cinema."

"Daughters of Chibok," about Boko Haram's abduction of 276 schoolgirls in Nigeria, won best VR story.

Nigerian director Joel Kachi Benson said he wanted to, "Take the world to Chibok and show them these women who for five years have been living in pain because their daughters are still missing."

'Friends' pop-up lets sitcom's fans explore show's key props

NEW YORK (AP)—Could "Friends" fans BE any luckier? Those who have snagged tickets to the New York City Pop-Up experience based on the comedy favorite will get to plop down on the orange couch at Central Perk, play foosball in Joey and Chandler's apartment and marvel at Rachel's haircuts through the show's 10 seasons.

Visitors enter a non-descript downtown building in a trendy Manhattan neighborhood, not unlike where friends Monica, Rachel, Phoebe, Ross, Joey and Chandler lived on the show, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary later this month. There are different sections to walk through in 8,500 square feet of loft space, where more than 50 original props from the show are on display.

James Michael Tyler, who played Gunther, the barista forever in love with Rachel, was at a press preview for the Pop-Up on Thursday. He said he was amazed at the detail.

"It's really surreal... this particular pop up is far more elaborate than the ones that we've had in the past. This is literally like a 'Friends' museum," he said. "It's amazing how many props and little things that just bring back memories to me."

There are complete replicas of Joey and Chandler's living room and Central Perk's counter and lounging area.



This Sept. 5, 2019 photo shows actress Maggie Wheeler, who played Janice on the NBC sitcom "Friends," posing in a replica of the Central Perk set, at the New York City Pop-Up experience in New York.

AP

Original costumes like Monica's chef uniform, Phoebe's funky suede jacket and Ross' infamous leather pants came straight from the Warner Bros. archives. While those items are behind glass, much of the exhibit is interactive. There are seven opportunities for fans to insert themselves into familiar "Friends" scenes for selfies and posed photos—like answering the door to Monica's apartment or sitting on the orange couches with colored umbrellas from the show's musical open.

The Friends Pop-Up is an experiential project created by entertainment company Superfly, in partnership with Warner Bros., which produced the show for its run

from 1994-2004.

The Pop-Up opens Saturday and runs through October 6th. Tickets sold out in three hours.

Maggie Wheeler, who played Janice on the show, said she's expecting fans will be satisfied by the experience.

"It's very rare to be able to kind of walk into a set, a place that lives in your memory, that you have all of these associations with, and sit here and touch this couch and look at this table and feel yourself living in the environment where all of these characters lived," she said. "So I think people are going to really flip out and I think they're going to have so much fun I think it's going to be hard to get people to leave."

Sheriff: Country singer Kylie Rae Harris caused deadly crash

TAOS, N.M. (AP)—Country singer Kylie Rae Harris caused a three-vehicle crash in northern New Mexico that left her and a 16-year-old girl dead, authorities said.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe told the Taos News that investigators believe Harris caused Wednesday's crash and that speed appeared to be a contributing factor when she clipped the back of another vehicle, sending her into oncoming traffic. She then crashed head-on into an SUV driven by Maria Elena Cruz.

Harris and the Taos High School student died at the scene. The responding emergency crew included the teen's father, Pedro Cruz, the deputy chief of the San Cristobal Volunteer Fire Department.

"At this time, I will say with

most certainty that Miss Cruz was an innocent victim of this senseless crash caused by Ms. Harris," the sheriff said.

Authorities also have said evidence at the crash scene indicated alcohol may have been involved, though they declined to provide details. They were awaiting a toxicology report from the coroner's office.

The Taos News reported that Harris, 30, had a prior DWI conviction in Collin County, Texas, in 2017 and had been ordered to install an ignition interlock device on her vehicle, according to court records.

A single mother, Harris was in Taos to perform at an annual music festival. She had posted on social media earlier that day that she was low on gas and 36 miles (58 kilometers) from the nearest gas station.

"Dear baby Jesus please don't let me get stranded in NM," she tweeted.

Harris' publicist, Sarah Frost, said Thursday the musician's family and friends were heartbroken over her death. Harris released a self-titled album earlier this year and had spent the summer traveling to shows throughout Texas.

Students and faculty at Taos High were in shock after learning that Cruz was killed in the crash. The sophomore was remembered as beautiful, kind, hardworking, intelligent and inspirational.

Taos County Fire Manager Mike Cordova said in an email that the Cruz family was reeling from her death. The community of San Cristobal was holding a fundraising dinner Friday to help the family with funeral costs.

Desperate for leniency: Macy, Longoria go to bat for Huffman

BOSTON (AP)—Felicity Huffman and her lawyers pleaded Friday for probation, community service and a fine instead of jail time for her role in the college admissions scandal, buoyed by letters of support from her famous husband, William H. Macy, and her “Desperate Housewives” co-star Eva Longoria.

Huffman, in a three-page letter filed Friday with the federal court in Boston that is handling the sweeping brib-

In this Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014 file photo, Felicity Huffman, from left, writer/director William H. Macy and Eva Longoria arrive at the Los Angeles VIP screening of “Rudderless” at The Vista Theater.

AP



Would you be mine? Hanks unveils his Mr. Rogers at festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Ever since it was first announced, the idea of Tom Hanks playing Mr. Rogers has seemed like dream casting, a match as snug as a warm zip-up sweater.

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” starring Hanks as the host of “Mister Rogers Neighborhood,” premiered Saturday night at the Toronto International Film Festival, revealing a nuanced and layered performance by Hanks that goes well beyond the cardigan.

The film, which will open in theaters Nov. 22, isn’t a Fred Rogers biopic but dramatizes the true story of magazine journalist (Matthew Rhys, playing a fictionalized version of writer Tom Junod) who went to Pittsburgh to profile Rogers for Esquire magazine.

Directed by Marielle Heller (“The Diary of a Teenage Girl”), “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” focuses on how an encounter with the hyper-sensitive, open-hearted Rogers transformed the cynical New York reporter. Hanks’

performance is only a part of the drama, but his gentle, whole-body transformation into Rogers drew thunderous applause from festival audiences and rave reviews from critics. “Hanks isn’t just good—he’s transporting,” wrote Variety.

“We never make fun of Fred. We slow down to listen to him,” Hanks said following the film’s screening. “It was

always going to be, I think, deconstructing the myth of it to show he was a regular guy who went out for Chinese food. At the same time, there is this mystery. What’s his motivation?”

“One of the most wonderful things, too, is he was actually an ordained minister who never mentioned God on his show,” Hanks said.

Heller, whose “Can You

Ever Forgive Me?” earlier this year garnered Oscar nominations for its leads (Melissa McCarthy, Richard E. Grant), questioned the idea that Hanks—“America’s Dad”—was so naturally suited the part of Rogers.

“I do think there’s this kind of thing that happens where everyone goes, ‘Oh yeah, I love Tom Hanks. I love Mr. Rogers. This makes perfect sense,’” Heller said. “That’s not an easy performance to give. That’s not something that Tom just walks in and puts on a sweater. That is an incredibly raw and vulnerable performance.”

The life of Rogers, who died at age 74 in 2003, was last year chronicled in the documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”—a film Hanks cited as part of his extensive research watching tapes of Rogers. With \$12.4 million in ticket sales, it was the year’s highest-grossing documentary, and its success suggested a widespread desire many feel to reconnect with Rogers.



Actor Tom Hanks arrives for the Gala Premiere of the film “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019.

AP

Billy Bush gets a second chance at TV show after firing

NEW YORK (AP)—Three years after being fired by NBC due to the infamous “Access Hollywood” tape, Billy Bush is hoping to use his experience in television’s wilderness to his advantage in his new job.

Bush begins Monday as host of the revamped pop culture news show, “Extra.” He was a rising star just hired as a host on the “Today” show when tape emerged during the 2016 presidential campaign of him laughing to lewd remarks made by Donald Trump before an appearance on “Access Hollywood” 11 years earlier.

Following an outcry, Trump was elected president. Bush lost his job.

That gave him a unique view from the inside of a me-

dia maelstrom, and he’s using it as a selling point to land interviews with celebrities in similar situations. The idea: I, more than anyone, know what you’re going through and I’m not going to make things worse.

“I’ve already connected with several people I’m watching right now getting the flogging and the public shaming and the cancel culture and all that,” he said. “I’m the first one to reach out and say, ‘you know you’re in good hands with me.’”

“It’s not that I’m going to nurture you,” Bush said. “But I am going to be extremely fair and empathetic of the human

condition, which is that we’re all hard-wired for good and evil and we’re not at our best sometimes.”



Bush

For competitive reasons, the only example that his executive producer, Lisa Gregorisch-Dempsey, will cite is a “Bachelor in Paradise” contestant.

Gregorisch-Dempsey knew Bush in the early days of his career, before he moved to “Access.” With George W. Bush in the White House, she looked for someone in the Bush family for “Extra” and jokes, “we thought they were going to bring us a really cute son of

Jeb Bush.” Billy Bush, a cousin of the president, had been working on a radio show in Washington.

Now, with changes to her show, she considered Bush “the only person who could do what we’re doing,” because of his reporting ability.

“There’s not a person I’ve ever talked to who didn’t say that he got a raw deal,” Gregorisch-Dempsey said. “Life is about second chances.”

Bush had to wonder if that time would come. During his “forced hiatus,” as he calls it, he’d hear from people who were interested in hiring him but terrified of the attention it could get. “Nobody wants that light to swing around on them,” he said.

ery scheme, said she has “a deep and abiding shame” for her actions.

She said she has found motherhood to be “bewildering” and had turned to the scheme in the hopes of giving her oldest daughter a chance to pursue her dream of acting.

Huffman said in the letter that her daughter has a diagnosed learning disability and struggles with math.

“In my desperation to be a good mother, I talked myself into believing that all I was doing was giving my daughter a fair shot,” Huffman wrote to U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani. “I see the irony in that statement now because what I have done is the opposite of fair. I have broken the law, deceived the educational community, betrayed my daughter, and failed my family.”

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling, meanwhile, argues that Huffman should spend 30 days in jail because she knew the scheme was wrong and participated anyway.

“Her efforts weren’t driven by need or desperation, but by a sense of entitlement, or at least moral cluelessness, facilitated by wealth and insu-

larity,” his office wrote in its filing Friday. “Millions of parents send their kids to college every year. All of them care as much she does about their children’s fortunes. But they don’t buy fake SAT scores and joke about it (‘Ruh Ro!’) along the way.”

Huffman used the Scooby-Doo catchphrase in an email after her daughter’s high school tried to make her take the exam with its own proctor instead of one preferred by the consultant she was paying.

Huffman’s filing also included more than two dozen letters of support, among them pleas from Macy and Longoria.

Macy, who wasn’t charged in the scheme, said in his own letter to the judge that their family has struggled since his wife’s arrest.

Huffman has rarely left the house and hasn’t received an audition or job offer since her arrest six months ago, he said.

Their oldest daughter is taking a gap year and not attending college for now, Macy said. And the family, which also includes a younger daughter in high school, is also seeing a therapist together.

Singer says opera’s Domingo harassed her, grabbed her breast

The glittering production was a high point of the Washington Opera’s 1999-2000 season: Jules Massenet’s “Le Cid,” about a legendary Spanish conqueror, starring a tenor legendary in his own right—Plácido Domingo, then the company’s artistic director.

The opera, also being filmed for broadcast on public television, was unquestionably a career break for a 28-year-old singer named Angela Turner Wilson, who’d been cast as the second female lead and

Wilson, now 48 and a college voice teacher in the Dallas area, was one of 11 women to come forward after an Aug. 13 AP story in which numerous women accused the long-married, Spanish-born superstar of sexual harassment or inappropriate, sexually charged behavior and of sometimes damaging their careers if they rejected him.

In the weeks since that story was published, the women have shared new stories about encounters with



Domingo

Domingo, currently the general director of Los Angeles Opera, that they said included unwanted touching, persistent requests for private get-togethers, late-night phone calls and sudden attempts to kiss them on the lips.

Full Coverage: Plácido Domingo
Several additional backstage employees described for the AP how they strove to shield young women from the star as administrators looked the other way.

Taken together, their stories reinforce a picture of an industry in which Domingo’s behavior was an open secret and young women were left to fend for themselves in the workplace.

Judge approves moves to streamline Weinstein case

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Amazon.com apologizes for shipping Atwood novel early

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon.com is apologizing for a “technical error” which led to some copies of Margaret Atwood’s “The Testaments,” the year’s most anticipated novel, being “inadvertently” sent early. The online giant issued a statement Thursday saying that a “small number” of customers received Atwood’s sequel to “The Handmaid’s Tale” before its Sept. 10 release date. Some readers have posted photos of “The Testaments” on social media. Atwood’s new novel was tightly embargoed, a common publishing tactic for topical non-fiction such as political memoirs, but rare for fiction. Harper Lee’s “Go Set a Watchman” and J.K. Rowling’s final Harry Potter novel are among the few fictional books released under similar conditions. “The Testaments” was No. 2 on Amazon as of midday Thursday, trailing “Call Sign Chaos,” by former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.

Harry, Meghan and Archie set for 10-day southern Africa trip

LONDON (AP)—Representatives for the British royal family say Prince Harry will get to see the legacy of his late mother’s humanitarian work in Angola during a fall trip to southern Africa. Buckingham Palace released details Friday of the trip Harry is taking with his wife, Meghan, and their infant son Archie, who was born in May. The itinerary has Meghan and Archie staying in South Africa for the entire Sept. 23-Oct. 2 trip. Harry also plans to go to Angola, Malawi and Botswana. Harry’s private secretary, Sam Cohen, said that while in Angola the prince will see land mine clearing work that has continued long after Princess Diana brought worldwide attention to the problem. She died in 1997. Meghan will visit South African organizations promoting women’s education, health, entrepreneurship and leadership.

First day of school for 4-year-old UK Princess Charlotte

LONDON (AP) — Brit-

ain’s Princess Charlotte had plenty of support on her first day of school — she was accompanied by older brother Prince George and her parents, Prince William and his wife Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge. William said Friday their 4-year-old daughter was “very excited” on her first day at Thomas’s Battersea in London. Charlotte seemed a bit hesitant as she entered the schoolyard for the first time holding the hand of her mother. Six-year-old George has already been at the school for two years. William told one of the head teachers: “First day. She’s very excited.”

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge is signing off on changes meant to streamline Harvey Weinstein’s sexual assault case after a recent flurry of activity.

Judge James Burke on Friday approved consolidating two indictments against the movie mogul and gave prosecutors the green light

to swap a pair of older predatory sexual assault charges with new ones.

Weinstein pleaded not guilty Aug. 26 to a new indictment adding the new charges. Prosecutors then asked to have old versions of those charges dismissed.

Prosecutors say the new charges were needed to lay

the legal foundation for “Sopranos” actress Annabella Sciorra (shee-OR’-uh) to testify about claims that Weinstein raped her in 1993.

Weinstein’s case involves allegations from other women. He has denied all accusations of nonconsensual sex. His trial is scheduled to start Jan. 6.

Parents complained of priest who banned Harry Potter books

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee priest who banned Harry Potter books from a Catholic school’s library was accused by parents of causing their children psychological and spiritual harm.

The Tennessean obtained a 2017 letter from 14 St. Edward Catholic School par-

ents, urging the Nashville diocese to remove the Rev. Dan Reehil.

The letter, with 50 bullet points, said Reehil is a toxic narcissist who hates Pope Francis and views himself as “a soldier of God.” It said “Our school, however, consists of children, not soldiers.” Diocesan spokesman Rick

Musacchio said Reehil’s views, like that of the retired, more liberal pastor he replaced, both have homes in the church.

Reehil didn’t respond to the newspaper’s interview requests. In an email, he said he removed J.K. Rowling’s books because they contain “actual spells and curses.”

Nicki Minaj tweets that she’s retiring to ‘have my family’

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Is Nicki Minaj really hanging up the mic?

The chart-topping rapper announced Thursday on Twitter that she “decided to retire & have my family.” Her announcement comes as a surprise after she recently made a guest appearance on Megan Thee

Stallion’s “Hot Girl Summer.”

In the tweet, Minaj she took a jab at her critics and asked her fans to “keep reppin me, do it til da death of me.”

In July, Minaj announced

she was pulling out a show in Saudi Arabia to show support women’s rights, gay rights and freedom of expression. She also canceled her appearance at the BET Experience

Concert earlier this year.

Last year, Minaj released her fourth studio album “Megatron.”

A representative for Minaj didn’t immediately reply to messages.

Trump again attacks ‘Will & Grace’ actress Debra Messing

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump is again attacking Debra Messing, calling the liberal activist and “Will & Grace” star a racist and saying she should be fired from the NBC sitcom.

Messing apologized earlier this week after tweeting in support of an Alabama church sign which reads “a black vote for Trump is mental illness.” Trump tweeted Thursday that Messing was being held to a different standard than what was used for Roseanne Barr,

whose show “Roseanne” was cancelled in 2018 by ABC after she made racist comments about former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett.

“Will Fake News NBC allow a McCarthy style Racist to continue?” the president wrote about Messing, who has previously asked that names of attendees at an upcoming Beverly Hills event for Trump be made public.



Messing

NBC has already said “Will & Grace” will end its revival run after three seasons in 2020.

When the comedy first aired from 1998-2006, it was a groundbreaker for its depiction of gay friends Will and Jack, played by Eric McCormack and Sean Hayes. Messing won an Emmy Award in 2003 for playing the title character Grace.



This Nov. 4, 2018 file photo shows singer Nicki Minaj performing at the European MTV Awards in Bilbao, Spain.

Husband doesn’t give his lost wedding ring a second thought

DEAR ABBY: My husband (my second, and I am his third wife) and I just returned from a fantastic trip throughout Asia. While removing a piece of luggage from the conveyor belt at JFK Airport, my husband’s wedding ring flew off his finger. He glanced at and around the belt for about 12 seconds, shrugged his shoulders, turned and headed for the exit. I, and many of our fellow travelers, continued to look for it.

I called out to him as he was walking away and said that we should probably notify someone and give them our information if it was found. His response was, “Not worth it” and a simple head shake, leaving most of us with dropped jaws.

We celebrated our third wedding anniversary on that trip. We have been together for 14 years, and during that time, he proposed in several very romantic and loving ways. We had a delightful relationship up to the point of his losing the ring, but I realize now I was the only one who took the symbolism of our wedding rings seriously.

I am hurt, disappointed and embarrassed by his actions. He says I’m overreacting and that he didn’t want to wear one anyway. (I never asked or expected him to get one. He got it only because he had “cashed in” his former spouse’s engagement and wedding ring set that she had left behind in a drawer.) What is your take on this matter?

DEEPER MEANING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEEPER MEANING: I do find it unusual that your husband made such a feeble attempt to find the ring. However, my take on this is you should—if you are smart—thank your higher power for the wonderful relationship you have shared with this man the last 14 years (married for three) and not ruin what you have by blowing this out of proportion. What you have with him is more precious than any tangible item — the lost wedding band in particular. If he prefers not to replace it, let it go.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law is the only member of our extended local family who drinks alcohol. I think she may be an alcoholic. At family events she becomes nasty when she drinks, but she thinks she’s clever and amusing.

For the last 10 years I have kept my mouth shut and never mentioned it. Am I enabling? Should I say something to alert her to how she is coming across? Other family members feel the same as I do.

NON-DRINKER IN MICHIGAN

DEAR NON-DRINKER: This woman is married to your son. How does HE feel about this? One of the warning signs of an alcohol problem is a personality change when the person has been drinking. Not only should you point out to your daughter-in-law that she has a problem, but the relatives

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



who feel as you do should approach her with you. It is called an “intervention,” and it should have happened years ago.

There are programs that can help your daughter-in-law—AA is one of several—but only if she recognizes she has a problem. Al-Anon is a resource for friends and family who are affected by a loved one’s drinking. Find it at al-anon.org and attend some meetings. You will find them enlightening.

P.S. If you see her verbally abuse someone while she is drinking, don’t stand quietly by. Say something.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jazz singer James

5 Nourished

8 Some GIs

12 Grouch

13 Rage

14 Operatic solo

15 Fixes a squeak

16 Tip for a waiter

18 Short-horned grasshopper

20 Girls

21 Exceptional

23 Yank's foe

24 Portable, like a smart-phone

28 Beholds

31 Swelled head

32 TV's Norman and family

DOWN

1 Earth Day subj.

2 Half a sextet

3 Body powder

4 Ridiculous

5 Greek orchard

6 Mess up

7 Bargain

8 Takes a breather

9 Disk-shaped toys

10 Refer to

11 Declares

17 Roofing

19 Satirist

22 Gladden

24 Height of fashion?

25 Khan title

26 Oscar hopefuls

27 Con-scripted soldiers

29 Water (Fr.)

30 NASCAR advertiser

33 Winter blanket

36 NBC journalist

38 Bleak

40 Beer barrel

42 Eye drop

43 Division word

44 Frees (of)

46 Fencing sword

47 Dresden denial

48 Taxpayer IDs

50 Menagerie

Solution time: 26 mins.

T	A	G	O	R	C	H	O
A	G	O	P	E	R	I	Q
I	A	B	L	E	H	O	U
A	R	I	A	N	A	S	K
S	U	B	T	S	P	T	O
S	W	E	E	P	M	E	R
I	F	A	R	P	A	R	K
O	R	S	B	O	X	H	E
W	E	T	M	O	P	C	A
F	D	U	A	K	I	N	S
C	A	R	A	L	L	P	O
P	A	N	A	X	L	E	A
R	A	P	T	R	O	S	S
D	O	T					

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 39; Eric Stonestreet, 48; Adam Sandler, 53; Hugh Grant, 59.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change. Live your dream. Use your imagination, and you will discover a world that excites you. Set high goals this year. Go on an adventure to regain confidence. Forge into the future with optimism. Don't let your past or people who don't support you stand between you and what you want. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 28, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep an open mind, a closed wallet and a compassionate attitude. How you handle others will make a difference in the way others perceive you. Listen carefully, and offer only what you know you are capable of doing. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look at the possibilities, and make your move. You'll have impeccable timing and excellent insight into how to move forward. Trust your judgment, and don't worry about what others choose to do. Romance is on the rise. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Trust your intuition, not what someone tells you. A deal is useful only if you come out ahead. Don't make a purchase you don't need. Joint ventures are best left alone. Walk away from unpredictable people and situations. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Express your feelings, and share your ideas. A partnership will play an important role in the outcome of a project you want to pursue. The input you receive will help you stay within budget. Ro-

mance will improve your personal life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore new possibilities, but don't make an impulsive decision. Take your time, and consider every option. Time is on your side, and making a practical choice will set you up for success. Taking on debt, more work or additional responsibility should be avoided. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to give in to someone using manipulative tactics to stop you from doing things your way. Follow your heart and your dreams. It's your life, and you have to do what's best for you. A positive change is encouraged. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll require an open mind when dealing with close-minded people. A positive attitude will help you plant seeds that will encourage those less accommodating to consider what you think will be an excellent opportunity. Offer incentives and compliments. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Embrace change. What you discover will help you make an important decision regarding the people and groups you rely on for support. A close friend or relative will offer sound advice. Love, romance and a commitment are encouraged. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you take on too much, you will fall short. Find out what's expected of you before you get involved in a joint venture. Someone you trust will disappoint you. Don't rely on others or take part in a dispute. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Update personal documents. Take note of what others say, but when it comes to making a decision, go directly to the source for facts and figures that can determine how you should move forward. A partnership should be considered carefully. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider the possibilities as well as the downside of any proposition you are offered. Doing your own things will have advantages. An emotional situation should be handled with compassion and understanding. Physical improvements will lift your spirits. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen to what others say, and consider how best to use your skills to gain acceptance from your peers. Stick to the facts, and you'll avoid giving a false impression. It's best if the competition underestimates what you are capable of doing. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, changeable and ambitious. You are dedicated and loyal. Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7		1	3	6		2					
	2		9				1				
1		8	2			4					
9					3		6				
	8			4			7				
2		4								1	
		9			6	5		7			
	3			7				6			
4		6	3	8						9	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	1	5	4	8	6	7	3	2
4	7	3	2	5	1	8	9	6
6	8	2	3	9	7	5	1	4
7	4	8	5	2	3	1	6	9
2	3	1	7	6	9	4	8	5
5	9	6	1	4	8	3	2	7
3	5	9	8	7	2	6	4	1
1	2	4	6	3	5	9	7	8
8	6	7	9	1	4	2	5	3

Difficulty Level ★

9/09

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOUP NAMES

Solution: 7 letters

C T H R E D W O H C C L B N M
E A A S H M T E E M I L E O U
S I U E A A U S D O E B E L S
S C C L M L Q L B D A N F E H
I H C O I U U A L R I R U M R
A U T T A F S O L I E N A D O
B P N S A K L E G N G S G C O
A E H S O L Y O C D A A A S M
L E T T U C E H W R A T N H S
L R K E O G O U S E E S E C P
I N A W A R U R Z U R A H H I
U E O B K V B M N A M P M I N
O M B I M R E N B O C A I J A
B A C O N A O A P O T A T O C
C R M I S O S P L I T P E A H

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Ajiaco, Bacon, Barley, Basko, Beef, Boil, Bouillabaisse, Broth, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cazuela, Chowder, Chupe, Clam, Corn, Cream, Dashi, French, Goulash, Gumbo, Lentil, Lettuce, Lime, Meat, Melon, Menudo, Miso, Mulligan, Mushroom, Mushy, Onion, Pasta, Pork, Potato, Ramen, Rasam, Sambar, Shchi, Spinach, Split Pea, Squash, Stew, Taco, Tomato, Veal, Wedding

Last Friday's Answer: Natural
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary \$13.87 to \$19.00

Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution:
Three sheets to the wind

**DRIVE SOBER OR
GET PULLED OVER**

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs., a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refine, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or its equivalence;
• At least 24 months experience;
• Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Architectural Drafter \$20.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepared detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings, structures and interior rooms according to specifications provided by architect. Operate computer aided drafting (CAD) equipment or conventional drafting station to produce designs, working drawings, charts, forms and records. Analyze building codes, bylaws, space and site requirements and other technical documents and reports to determine their effect on architectural designs. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's degree in Architecture or related field required. Two (2) years experience as Architectural Drafter is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an
Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic \$7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose cause of most malfunctions and performs repair of vehicles. Examines vehicle to determine if further safety or service work is required or recommended. Road tests vehicles when required. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required.
At least 2 years experience as Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SIX (6) Machine Feeder and Offbearer \$8.07 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Feed materials into or remove materials from machines or equipment that is automatic or tended by machine operators. Inspect materials and products for defects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Record production and operational data such as amount of materials processed. Take direction from machine operators to clean and maintain machinery, equipment and work areas to ensure proper functioning and safe working conditions. Transfer materials and products to and from machinery and equipment using industrial trucks, forklifts or hand trucks. Fasten, package or stack materials and products using hand tools and fastening equipment. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required.
At least 1 year experience as Machine Feeder and Offbearer is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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CHARLENE MANGLONA LIZAMA
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Commercial Cleaner -
High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience. salary \$7.30/ per hr.
Interested applicants please call 287-3223
email: vicelizama@yahoo.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) Silk Screen Printer - Highschool Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience in operating manual and automatic rotary silk screen printing press equipment.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Afetna Building, Beach Road, San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-1680

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs., a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refine, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or its equivalence;
• At least 24 months experience;
• Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Conveyor Operator and Tender \$8.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Control or tend conveyors or conveyor systems that move materials or products to and from stockpiles, processing stations, departments, or vehicles. May control speed and routing of materials or products. Perform Related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required.
At least 3 months experience as Conveyor Operator and Tender is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Occupational Health and Safety Specialist \$10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate degree in related field required.
At least 4 years experience is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Maintenance and Repair Worker \$8.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform general cleaning duties of buildings or properties. Paint or repair roofs, windows, doors, floors, woodwork, plaster, drywall, or other parts of building structures. Provide ground keeping services, such as landscaping. Able to do light carpentry, plumbing and electrical work to repair structures, repair water leaks or damaged piping, and repair and/or replace electrical fixtures.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required.
At least 2 years experience as Maintenance and Repair Worker is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate;
• At least 06 months experience;
• At least be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Maintenance Technicians \$8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs., a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting, boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hoids, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or its equivalence;
• At least 12 months experience;
• Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills, power circular saws and pullers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Accounting Clerk \$9.87 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:05 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate Degree in accounting
At least 24 months experience as Accounting Clerk is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sam Corporation is looking for the following position:

Sales Manager: Must be at least High School Graduate. Must be knowledgeable in all alcohol, liquor and tobacco products. Must have experience overseeing sales people in wholesale company. Must know cost-analysis and sales-analysis from each sales categories. Must know strategic planning for selling. Knowledgeable in INFLOW POS is a plus.

Sales Representative – Wholesale: Must be at least High School Graduate. With at least 24 months experience in Sales. Must be knowledgeable in all alcohol and liquor products. Must have experience in selling in wholesale company. Must be computer literate. Knowledge in INFLOW POS is a plus.

Accounting Clerk: Must be at least High School graduate. Knowledge in recording company transactions. Knowledge in INFLOW POS and QUICKBOOKS is a plus.

Open to all US Citizen or LPR. Application period is from Sept 5 to 11, 2019. Interested applicants may contact Eun Soon Lee at 233-9469 or 783-5419. Or submit their resume to the email: samcorpimports@yahoo.com.

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(25) Heavy Equipment Operators, \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compactors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. May repair and maintain equipment in addition to other duties. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Locate underground services, such as pipes or wires, prior to beginning work. Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience
• Knowledge in operating and controlling power construction equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Accountant \$12.86 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepare asset, liability and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing transaction information. Prepare financial statements and reports. Analyze financial information and communicate recommendations to management. Prepare and file required tax returns for local and federal revenue authorities. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree in accounting
At least 24 months experience is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Accountant \$12.86 to \$15.00 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepare asset, liability and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing transaction information. Prepare financial statements and reports. Analyze financial information and communicate recommendations to management. Prepare and file required tax returns for local and federal revenue authorities. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate Degree in accounting
At least 24 months experience is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

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Su Corporation

is looking for MAINTENANCE WORKER. Requires skills in carpentry, handyman, electrical repair, building maintenance. Interested applicants may send their email at sucorporationsu@gmail.com. Or may contact Mrs. Hyun Sook Kim at 287-9430, Monday to Friday, from 8AM to 5PM. Application period Sept 5 - Sept 11, 2019.

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(40) Masons 7.57 to 8.25 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float. Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High school Graduate;
• At least 03 months experience;
• Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate
• Minimum 12 months experience
• Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician \$14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
• Minimum 24 months experience
• Civil Engineering license or equivalent

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

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\$20 PER HOUR

**Help Old Man
Setup Channels For**
• YOUTUBE • PATREON
• PODCAST • W/SITE

Have U Done It Before?
Let's Talk
holanilee69@gmail.com

GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(03) Painter Helper 10.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or stucco masons by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas and equipment. Perform support duties to assist painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or masons. Apply protective coverings, such as masking tape, to articles or areas that could be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High school Graduate;
• At least 03 months experience
• Knowledge in painting works.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net

GPCC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors, completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate
• Minimum 2 years/24 months experience
• As Heavy Equipment Mechanic
• Valid CNMI Driver's license
• Valid CNMI police clearance
• Current DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Customer Service Representative - \$9.26 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Confering with customers by phone or in person to provide information about products or services, take or enter orders, cancel accounts, or obtain details of complaints; checking to ensure that appropriate changes were made to resolve customer's problems; keeping records of customer interactions or transactions, customer service or billing complaints by performing activities such as exchanging service, refunding money or adjusting bills, and completing contract forms, preparing documents or issuing service discontinuance orders using computers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School graduate or GED
• Minimum 12 months experience
• Computer knowledge
• Valid CNMI driver's license

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Astros beat Mariners; Verlander wins 18th



HOUSTON
(AP)—Justin Verlander

pitched seven strong innings to get his MLB-leading 18th win in his first start since throwing his third no-hitter to lead the Houston Astros to a 2-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Verlander (18-5) allowed four hits with one run and fanned seven in his 30th start of the season. He leads the American League with a 2.52 ERA and his 264 strikeouts are second in the majors behind teammate Gerrit Cole. Will Harris struck out one in a scoreless ninth for his second save.

With the game tied at one, Josh Reddick drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning. Alex Bregman tied it up with a solo home run in the sixth inning to help the Astros improve to 15-1 against the Mariners this season with their 10th straight win over their AL West foes.

Seattle starter Yusei Kikuchi had retired 11 of the last 13 batters he'd faced when Bregman connected off of him on a shot to the seats in left field with no outs in the sixth to tie it at 1-all.

Rookie pinch-hitter Kyle Tucker doubled to start Houston's seventh and reached third on a wild pitch by Austin Adams (1-2). Houston took the lead when Tucker scored on the sacrifice fly by Reddick for the first out of the inning.

Verlander has started at least 30 games in 13 seasons and he reached 200 innings on Saturday night for his 12th season with at least 200 innings.

Phillies 5, Mets 0

In New York, Drew Smyly pitched seven solid innings and Philadelphia pounded Marcus Stroman and a porous New York defense to end a three-game skid.

César Hernández led off the game with his ninth homer, and Philadelphia grinded away early even with star Bryce Harper out of the lineup a day after being hit in the right hand by a fastball.

The Mets played sloppily behind Stroman (7-13), and the right-hander left trailing 5-0 after four innings. He allowed 10 hits and struck out six without issuing a walk.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Travis d'Arnaud and Daniel Robertson drove in runs with two outs in the eighth inning, helping Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

In the eighth, Jordan Romano (0-2) walked pinch-hitter J-Man Choi and Kevin Kiermaier hit a double. D'Arnaud



lofted a pinch-hit sacrifice fly that scored pinch-runner Michael Brosseau and broke a 3-3 tie. Robertson, who had tied the game with an RBI double in the seventh, hit a single off Ryan Tepera that drove in Kiermaier with an insurance run.

Nick Anderson (5-4) got the win and Oliver Drake struck out three straight for his second save in three tries.

Diamondbacks 2, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, rookie Alex Young struck out 12 in eight innings, Ketel Marte drove in a run and scored another and Arizona won its fifth straight and extended its playoff surge. Jimmie Sherfy fanned slugger Eugenio Suarez and rookie sensation Aristides Aquino with runners on first and second to end it.

The Diamondbacks have won 11 of 12 and moved a season-high eight games over .500. Arizona pulled within 1 1/2 games of Chicago for the last NL wild-card spot after the Cubs' 3-2 loss at Milwaukee later Saturday.

Luis Castillo (14-6) took the loss.

Yankees 5, Red Sox 1

In Boston, J.A. Happ pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, Edwin Encarnacion homered and New York beat the Red Sox.

Happ and four relievers combined on a five-hitter for the AL East leaders.

J.D. Martinez homered off Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman with two outs in the ninth.

Happ (12-8) allowed two hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out seven and walking one.

Ryan Weber (2-3), Boston's third pitcher of the game, took the loss.

Royals 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Ryan McBroom doubled twice and had three RBI to help Kansas City beat the Marlins.

McBroom's bases-clearing double off Miami reliever Ryne Stanek in the seventh capped a six-run inning.

Jorge Soler hit his 41st homer, a solo blast in the ninth, and Hunter Dozier had two hits for the Royals, who have won six of seven.

Adam Conley (2-8) took the loss.

Rangers 9, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Rowned Odor

homered during a six-run first inning and Texas cruised to its third straight victory over the Orioles.

Texas won its first road series since June 25-27, having gone 0-9-2 over that stretch.

Reliever Yohander Méndez (1-0) picked up the win after entering in the third and allowing one run with six strikeouts over 21/3 innings.

Anthony Santander went 1 for 5 with an RBI, extending his hitting streak to 12 games, and Rio Ruiz homered for the Orioles, who have lost seven of eight.

Cardinals 10, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer and Adam Wainwright pitched seven strong innings, helping St. Louis maintain its lead atop the NL Central.

After Dexter Fowler opened the scoring with an RBI single earlier in the third inning, Ozuna connected against Steven Brault (4-4) for his 26th home run of the season and a 4-0 lead. The cleanup hitter also walked twice after having two hits in his 35 at-bats.

Wainwright (11-9) helped himself with a double and

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in Houston.

single while lasting seven innings for the second straight start. He gave up one run and six hits.

Angels 8, White Sox 7

In Chicago, Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run home run and drove in a career-high five runs to help Los Angeles beat the White Sox.

Ohtani finished with three hits and was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle. Albert Pujols and Kevan Smith added two hits apiece for the Angels, who have won 10 of 11 against Chicago.

José Abreu homered and drove in four runs, and Yoán Moncada had three hits for the White Sox, who have dropped 10 of 12. Tim Anderson went 2 for 5 to raise his AL-leading average to .334, six points ahead of the DJ LeMahieu of the New York Yankees.

Twins 5, Indians 3

In Minneapolis, Mitch Garver hit his second homer of the game, a three-run shot, in the seventh inning, helping Minnesota rally past Cleveland.

Garver set a Twins single-season record for home runs by a catcher with a solo shot that opened the scoring in the first inning. He capped the Twins' comeback with his 28th of the season, sending the pitch from Nick Goody into the first row of flowers in the right field overhang.

Zack Littell (4-0) pitched a scoreless inning in relief of Jake Odorizzi, who struck out 10 in 5 1/3 innings for the Twins. Taylor Rogers earned his 25th save.

Brewers 3, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich sliced an opposite-field double off Brandon Kintzler to score the winning run in the ninth inning for the Brewers.

Pinch-hitter Tyler Austin reached on shortstop Addison Russell's throwing error and before Yelich batted, Cubs pitching coach Tommy Hotovy came out to talk with Kintzler (3-3). Whatever was said didn't work as Yelich had his 500th career RBI.

Yelich walked three times and swiped second each time, extending his career-best to 30 steals.

Braves 5, Nationals 4

In Atlanta, Josh Donaldson and Ozzie Albies each homered for the second straight day and the Braves won their

ninth straight.

Brian McCann and Matt Joyce hit back-to-back homers in a three-run sixth inning, helping the NL East leaders to their longest winning streak in five-plus years.

Julio Teheran (10-8) made his 30th start for the seventh straight season, allowing one run and three hits in five innings.

Padres 3, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Manny Machado hit a two-run home run, Wil Myers also connected and left-hander Joey Lucchesi and three relievers combined on a three-hitter to lead the Padres.

Machado hit a two-run opposite-field shot to right off Jeff Hoffman with one out in the sixth and Greg Garcia aboard on a leadoff walk. It was Machado's 29th overall and just his third since Aug. 1.

Myers homered leading off the fifth, his 17th.

Athletics 10, Tigers 2

In Oakland, Chris Bassitt struck out a career-high 11 in six innings and was part of a bizarre double play to help the Athletics beat Detroit.

Matt Chapman hit his 32nd home run, Matt Olson had four hits including his 29th homer, and Jurickson Profar hit his 20th for Oakland, which remained one game behind Tampa Bay for the top AL wild card. The A's moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Cleveland for the second spot.

Bassitt (10-5) allowed two runs and eight hits and didn't walk a batter.

After giving up hits to two of Detroit's first three batters, Bassitt induced a strange double play.

Giants 1, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Kevin Pillar knocked in the game's only run with a ground out in the first inning and Tyler Beede struck out five in five innings as San Francisco beat the Dodgers.

The Dodgers entered the three-game series against their rivals with a magic number of four to clinch their seventh consecutive National League West title. While already eliminated from playoff contention, the Giants made sure a Dodgers party will not happen this weekend.

The earliest the Dodgers can now clinch is Tuesday, at the start of an interleague series at Baltimore.

The Giants loaded the bases in the first inning against Dodgers rookie starter Tony Gonsolin. Pillar's slow roller to Justin Turner at third base was able to bring home Mike Yastrzemski with what proved to be the game's only run.

Andreescu denies Serena 24th Slam title

NEW YORK (AP)—Bianca Andreescu knew this would happen, because she knows all about Serena Williams. Looked up to her. Dreamed of playing her.

Andreescu knew Williams would not go quietly. Knew Williams would not make things easy. And so as a big lead in the U.S. Open final dwindled Saturday, as she stuffed fingers in her ears to drown out the decibels from the delirious thousands filling Arthur Ashe Stadium, Andreescu knew she needed to be just as bold, and hit just as big, as she did earlier in the match—and as Williams has done for years.

Displaying the same brand of in-your-face tennis Williams seemed to invent, replete with strong serves, gutsy groundstrokes and “Come on!” cries, the 19-year-old Andreescu regained the upper hand and pulled out a 6-3, 7-5 victory at Flushing Meadows to win her first Grand Slam title and keep Williams from collecting a record-tying 24th.

“I’m sure I’m not the only person that’s looked up to her. She’s an inspiration to many, many people, not only athletes. What she’s done off the court, too. She’s truly a champion. Above all, she’s very kind-hearted. She came up to me in the locker room, she said some really nice things, which I’ll cherish for a really, really long time,” Andreescu said about the 37-year-old Williams.

“I’ve really strived to be like her,” Andreescu said. “Who knows? Maybe I can be even better.”

That’s quite a heady goal.

Still, this was certainly a good place to start.

Andreescu is the first woman in the Open era, which began in 1968, to win the championship in New York in her tournament debut; a year ago, she couldn’t even make it into the field, because she lost in the first round of qualifying. She is the first woman since Monica Seles in 1990 to lift the trophy in only her fourth Grand Slam tournament. She is the first player from Canada to win a Grand Slam singles title.

This is the second year in a row that Williams has lost in the final at Flushing Meadows. This one had none of the controversy of 2018, when she got into an extended argument with the chair umpire while being beaten by Naomi Osaka.

Williams has now been the runner-up at four of the seven majors she has entered since returning to the tour after having a baby two years ago. The American remains stuck on 23 Grand Slam singles titles, one shy of Margaret Court’s mark



for the most in history.

“I’m not necessarily chasing a record. I’m just trying to win Grand Slams. It’s definitely frustrating, you know,” Williams said.

She gave credit to Andreescu for playing well, but also said: “I honestly didn’t play

my best today. I could have played better. That’s the only solace that I can take right now.”

Williams double-faulted eight times in all, including three times on break point, part of her 33 unforced

errors, nearly double Andreescu’s total of 17.

There were other ways in which Williams was not at her best, seemingly unsure of herself, including one odd-looking check-swing

on a backhand in the second set that then let Andreescu put a shot away to go up 4-1.

Soon, Andreescu held a match point while serving at 5-1, 40-30. Williams erased that by snapping a forehand return winner off a 105 mph serve.



Nadal seeks 19th major, Medvedev eyes 1st

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal shrugged his shoulders once, twice, three times. If his words weren’t going to make his position clear, his body language would.

The question: Would he like to end up with the record for most Grand Slam titles won by a man? The answer, essentially: Yes, of course.

And if he doesn’t?

“I would love to be the one to have more, yes, but you cannot be all day frustrated or all day thinking about what your neighbor has better than you,” the 33-year-old Spaniard said after reaching the U.S. Open final to give himself a shot at another major championship. “You have to be happy with yourself. You have to do your way. If you are the one to achieve more, fantastic. If not, at least I give my best during all my career. That’s all.”

If he can beat Daniil Medvedev on Sunday at Flushing Meadows, Nadal will collect his fourth trophy in New York. Of more historical significance is that it would move him within one title of rival Roger Federer in the

Slam standings.

Right now, Federer leads the way with 20, Nadal is next with 18 and Novak Djokovic has 16.

“I am happy about my career. I am very happy about what I’m doing. I’m going to keep working hard to try to produce chances,” Nadal said. “Sunday is one. It’s just one more chance, that’s all.”

In addition to his trio of U.S. Open triumphs, he already owns 12 titles from the French Open, two from Wimbledon and one from the Australian Open.

This will be the 27th Grand Slam final of the No. 2-seeded Nadal’s career, and the first for No. 5 Medvedev, as 23-year-old from Russia.

Medvedev had never been past the fourth round at a major until now.

“We’re going to prepare this like a normal match, because that’s how Daniil is thinking. I would not talk about ‘first final’ or stuff like that, because it won’t help him,” said Medvedev’s coach, Gilles Cervara. “If he’s in position to win the

tournament, maybe he can feel some nervousness. But he’s totally able to manage this and to come on the court with his mind 100% ready to play his best tennis and to win the match.”

Medvedev has been doing a lot of winning lately, playing going 20-2 during the North American hard-court swing and reaching the final at each of his past four tournaments.

That includes a runner-up finish to Nadal at the Montreal Masters in August by a 6-3, 6-0 score.

“We have to try to do good things to beat him,” said one of Nadal’s coaches, Francisco Roig, who then added with a laugh: “I’m not going to tell you which things.”

What the 6-foot-6 (1.97-meter) Medvedev has grabbed the most attention for during the past two weeks is his interactions with the crowds at Flushing Meadows. During a third-round victory over Feliciano Lopez, he drew the ire of spectators for angrily grabbing a white towel from a ballperson and later holding up his middle finger against

his face. They began booing during the match, then really let him hear it at the end. Medvedev basked in the jeers, antagonizing people even more by saying their negativity helped him win.

A similar scenario played out after his next win, too. Since then, Medvedev has been apologetic about his trolling and much calmer during matches, while playing deliciously defensive tennis that he can abandon to be more aggressive when he deems necessary.

“After these matches, I was like, ‘I don’t want to lose these matches because I get crazy or because I lose some concentration because of the fans, because of the referees (or) something that happens during the match,’” Medvedev said. “I want to lose matches because I was a (worse) tennis player on the court than my opponent.”

He spoke about getting good preparation for facing Nadal by already having beaten three other left-handers in New York.

But taking on Nadal is an entirely different task.

AP
Bianca Andreescu of Canada returns a shot to Serena Williams of the United States during the women’s singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in New York.

That launched a four-game run for Williams, who broke Andreescu again to make it 5-all.

“It was expected. She’s a champion. That’s what champions do. She’s done that many, many times throughout her career,” said Andreescu, perhaps aware that Williams has a winning record even when dropping the opening set of Grand Slam matches. “But I just tried to stay as composed as I could. It’s hard to just block everything out, but I think I did a pretty good job at that.”

Sure did. She steeled herself against Williams, against any nerves, against a loud bunch of spectators and took the last two games.

“Things just start slipping away. You can feel that Serena is finding a little bit of rhythm. She’s finding herself. She’s getting more solid. The crowd is roaring, just getting into it. It’s very easy to say from the sideline, ‘Stay focused, blah, blah, blah.’ But this is overwhelming. There’s no other word,” said Andreescu’s coach, Sylvain Bruneau. “So for her to be able to just, like, reset at 5-all when it’s now anybody’s match, that’s pretty special, I think. Very, very special. It shows a lot.”

She is 34-4 in 2019, 8-0 against top-10 opponents, and without a loss in a completed match since March 1. Andreescu missed a chunk of time in that span with a shoulder injury, which clearly is no longer hindering her.

Andreescu took it to Williams, figuratively and literally. Andreescu produced the kind of power Williams is more accustomed to dishing out than dealing with from the other side of the net. One shot went right at Williams, who leaped to avoid the ball at the baseline.

And Andreescu was fearless, always pushing, always aggressive.

“We’re really similar,” Williams said, “in terms of we both are fighters and we both are really intense.”

Talk about a compliment.

Andreescu agreed. To a point.

“We like to keep the points short with our aggressive game style. We like to use our serve to our advantage,” Andreescu said. “I think we fight really, really hard.”

“But at the same time,” she said, “I want to make a name for myself.”

Cut by Raiders, Brown joins Patriots on eve of opener



ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Randy Moss. Josh Gordon. And now Antonio Brown.

A dozen years after Bill Belichick took a chance on Moss when the talented but troubled diva had worn out his welcome in Oakland, the Patriots picked up Brown on Saturday hours after he was released by the Raiders without ever playing a game for them.

Brown's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, confirmed to The Associated Press that the four-time All-Pro receiver has agreed to terms with New England, going from the NFL's cellar to the defending Super Bowl champions despite talking and tweeting his way out of two teams in one offseason.

Brown had been scheduled to earn up to \$50 million from Oakland over the three-year deal. Instead, the Patriots guaranteed him \$9 million this season, with the potential to earn as much as \$15 million.

If Brown can behave, he would make up for the loss of tight end Rob Gronkowski, who retired at the age of 29. After the signing was reported, New England became the oddsmakers' favorite to win the Super Bowl.

A Patriots spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The deal was first reported by ESPN, and it became Instagram official minutes later when Brown posted a photo-shopped picture of himself in a Patriots uniform. The post was soon liked by New England receiver Julian Edelman, who already was sharing quar-



AP
In this Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) talks with Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) on the field after an NFL football game in Pittsburgh.

terback Tom Brady's attention with one troublemaking receiver, Josh Gordon.

But Belichick has a history of gambling on other teams' problems—or at least bringing them in at little cost—to give them a second, third or fourth chance.

In 2007, the Patriots acquired Moss after both Minnesota and Oakland tired of his attitude. He caught an NFL-record 23 touchdown passes in his first season and gave New England three straight seasons of 1,000 receiving yards to rehabilitate a career that landed him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Belichick also took a chance in 2004 on running back Corey Dillon, who had fallen out

of favor in Cincinnati; he ran for 1,635 yards and helped New England win its third Super Bowl in four seasons. (Some other moves, like Albert Haynesworth, didn't work out.)

Gordon dragged Cleveland through a series of suspensions before the Browns traded him to the Patriots last September. Belichick was rewarded with 40 catches for 720 yards and three touchdowns before Gordon was suspended Dec. 20 for violating the league's drug policy.

New England opens the season against the Steelers on Sunday night, when the Patriots will raise their sixth Super Bowl championship banner. Brown is not eligible to be of-

ficially signed until Monday, but even his presence on the Patriots' sideline adds a new wrinkle to his tumultuous tenure in Pittsburgh.

A four-time All-Pro who caught 837 passes over nine seasons with the Steelers, the team tired of Brown's antics and traded him to Oakland in March. But he never made it onto the field in a Raiders uniform.

Instead of providing them with a marquee star in their final season in Oakland before moving to Las Vegas, Brown gave them months of headaches, from a bizarre foot injury to a fight over his helmet to the blowups this week that ended his career there before it began.

The Raiders granted the disgruntled but talented receiver his Saturday morning, two days before their season opener.

"We just exhausted everything," coach Jon Gruden. "We tried every way possible to make it work. All I'm going to say is, it's disappointing."

Brown asked for the release after he was upset about his latest team fine over an outburst during practice at general manager Mike Mayock. That fine allowed the Raiders to void more than \$29 million in guarantees over the next two years in Brown's contract if he wasn't on the team.

The Raiders traded two mid-round draft picks to Pittsburgh for the game's most prolific receiver and gave him a three-year contract worth \$50.1 million that now is void; Brown could still file a grievance to recover the guaranteed money.

The moves on Saturday follow a week in which Brown posted a letter on social media detailing \$54,000 in fines for missing team activities. (ESPN reported that he would be fined \$215,073 for conduct detrimental to the team.)

Brown was banished for one day, then returned to the team and apologized in a meeting and in a brief public statement. Gruden said the plan was for Brown to play in the opener Monday night against Denver, but that changed after Brown requested and was granted his release.

"It's been crazy," Oakland receiver Tyrell Williams said. "We feel how everybody else feels. It's been wild, it's been crazy, it's been unexpected. But we're going to go out there and play regardless. He made that decision. We're go-

ing to go out there and play how we're going to play."

The Raiders had been counting on Brown to spark an offense that lacked playmakers a year ago. Brown had 686 catches and 9,145 yards receiving the past six seasons in Pittsburgh, the best marks ever for a receiver in a six-year span.

But now they must move on without him.

Jones agrees to \$66M extension with Falcons

In Georgia, one day before the season opener, Atlanta Falcons receiver Julio Jones got his long-awaited contract extension Saturday, agreeing to a three-year, \$66 million deal.

The extension is nearly fully guaranteed when he signs. It locks in Jones through the 2023 season and removes a potentially major headache for the Falcons before Sunday's game at Minnesota.

The deal was announced as the team was departing for Minneapolis.

Jones first sought a new contract more than a year ago. He reported for training camp when the Falcons enhanced his current deal and agreed to discuss a lucrative new extension before this season.

Negotiations dragged on far longer than expected, putting in doubt whether Jones would suit up against the Vikings.

No longer. "I love this city and I'm committed to being a Falcon for life," Jones said in a statement issued by the team.

The 30-year-old Jones is a six-time Pro Bowler coming off another huge season. Even as the Falcons slumped to a 7-9 record, he had 113 receptions for an NFL-leading 1,677 yards and eight touchdowns.

France, Australia into quarters; US must wait

France and Australia reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup on Saturday. They join Serbia, Spain, Poland and Argentina in the final eight.

The last two quarterfinal spots will be decided Monday when the United States (4-0) faces Brazil (3-1) and Greece (2-2) plays the Czech Republic (3-1). The U.S. is in the driver's seat and Greece can still advance with a win, a U.S. loss and some help from a tiebreaker.

France (4-0) moved on with a narrow 78-75 victory over Lithuania. Australia (4-0) defeated the Dominican Republic 82-76 to advance.

In the day's other second-round games, the United States defeated Greece 69-53 and the Czech Republic defeated Brazil 93-71.

France 78, Lithuania 75

At Nanjing, Evan Fournier

led France with 24 points and Nando De Colo scored 21. France led after three quarters 65-54 and withstood a closing charge by Lithuania.

Lithuania was led by Jonas Valanciunas with 18 points and eight rebounds. Mantas Kalnietis scored 12.

United States 69, Greece 53

At Shenzhen, Kemba Walker scored 15 points and Donovan Mitchell added 10 on his 23rd birthday for the unbeaten Americans. The U.S. led at the half 38-25 and pulled away slowly as it did for most of the match.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Greece with 15 points, but the reigning NBA MVP was pretty much held in check.

The U.S. can clinch a quarterfinal berth on Monday in several ways - beating Brazil,

or if Greece beats the Czech Republic, or through a three-way tiebreaker.

Czech Republic 93, Brazil 71

At Shenzhen, the Czech Republic kept itself in the hunt for a spot in the World Cup quarterfinals with an easy win over the previously unbeaten South Americans.

Tomas Satoransky scored 20 points, added nine assists and had seven rebounds for the Czechs (3-1), who will play Greece on Monday. Ondrej Balvin scored 15.

"It was another great victory for us," Satoransky said, with the team playing to its identity by "playing fast, running, sharing the ball and fighting on defense."

Coach Ronen Ginzburg said "it's an amazing time for

us, for Czech Republic basketball. It's a great win."

Vitor Benite scored 12 for Brazil (3-1), which will face the U.S. on Monday in the second-round finale for both teams. Leandro Barbosa and Marcelinho Huertas each scored 11 for Brazil.

Australia 82, Dominican Republic 76

At Nanjing, Australia, which had already clinched a place in next year's Olympics by being the top team in the World Cup out of Oceania, took away the Dominican Republic's chances of reaching the quarterfinals.

Australia (4-0) was led by Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs with 19 points and nine assists. Chris Goulding added 15 with 13 from Jock Landale. Eloy Vargas led the Dominicans with 16 points and Victor Liz added 14.



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IT&E whips Docomo Pacific; RNV wins

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



IT&E Dark subdued Docomo Pacific, 69-44, while RNV Construction prevailed against Gilas Batang-72-68, as games in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League resumed last Thursday at the Civic

Center Court.

IT&E Dark outgunned Docomo Pacific in the first half to take control of the match and improve its record to 3-3. Docomo fell to a 2-4 mark to remain at the bottom half of the team standings in 12-team league that had its games rained-out for three days last week.

Docomo was held to four field goals in the first quarter for

a measly 8 points and played worse in the second, scoring only 2 baskets and 7 markers, allowing IT&E Dark to take a 32-15 advantage at the break. Mike Cabanas had 8 points for IT&E Dark, while Ivan Devero and Ferick Aguon contributed 7 points each in the first half.

In the second half, Docomo Pacific picked up the slack with Robert Sanciango recording 11 points and Billy Grow adding 8. However, their efforts were not enough to bring Docomo back in the game, while Raymark Castro stepped up for IT&E, firing 10 of his 12 markers in the second.

In the second game, RNV Constructions also played better in the first half to beat Gilas Batang.

RNV scored 20 points each in the first and second quarter to build an 8-point lead at halftime, 40-32, and used that as cushion to thwart Gilas Batang's rally in the fourth period.

Ronald Rueda had 20 points to lead RNV, while Ariel Baul added 11, including the squad's last 4 points that sealed the deal.

RNV notched victory No. 3 out of five games, while Gilas Batang is still winless in seven matches.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E Dark's Ivan Devero pulls up for a short jumper against Connie's BBQ defenders during an earlier game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court.



GIRLS

From Page 28

25-16. GCA was also the top finisher in the elimination round last year after posting an 8-1 record, while Mt. Carmel was seeded second with its 7-2 mark and Saipan Southern came in at No. 3 with its 7-3 slate. SIS made it all the way to the finale despite being seeded at No. 14, as the Lady Geckos logged a 6-4 record in the regular season in 2018.

GCA will start its title defense next week against Saipan Southern as they square off on the north court at 4:30pm. Five more matches are scheduled in the opening day of the league with MHS 1 and 2 colliding on

the north court at 5:30pm and Agape and SIS 1 battling at 6:30pm. On the southern end of the court, SIS 1 will take on Kagman at 4:30pm, while Mt. Carmel 1 will duel MHS 2 at 5:30pm, and MHS 1 will face SIS 2 at 6:30pm.

Each match will be played in a best-of-three set format with a race to 25 per set and 30 cap in the first two and race to 15 in the deciding third with no cap.

The regular season will have a round-robin format with each Saipan team playing nine games to determine the seeding in the double-elimination playoffs. Rota and Tinian teams will join the Top 6 Saipan squads in the playoff round with the visiting groups getting the middle seeding.

IT&E

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losing its luster in the second, allowing IT&E to earn a 25-point winning margin.

Ken Viray, Prince Factor, Rey-mark Castro, and Josh Andrew combined for 18 of Caravan's 20 points in the second quarter to stay in contention. However, the foursome was held to 6 points in the third with Castro going scoreless, while IT&E pulled away.

Young guns Jaymark Castro and Jack Aranda teamed up with veterans Elmer Esdreton and Junar Guiab in handing IT&E back a double-digit spread after the third period, 58-42. The four players totaled for 17 points, nearly doubling the output of Caravan's, which was limited to two field goals in the penultimate canto.

Caravan's never regained its form after the third period meltdown, while IT&E had cruise control and even had a luxury of melting down the clock and fielding its second and third stringers to finish the game.

De Guzman top-scored for IT&E with his 15 points, while eight of his teammates added at least 6 points apiece for the squad's balance offense.

Factor had 16 for Caravan's, while Viray chipped in 11, but was held to 2 points in the entire second half and had limited minutes in the fourth period.

The Game 70, MS Villagomez 67

The Game matched IT&E's

2-0 record after outclassing MS Villagomez in the first game last Saturday.

June Fidelino fired 13 of his 20 markers in the fourth period to lift The Game to the 3-point victory. Jun Javier also stepped up for The Game in the final canto after contributing 6 points.

The fourth period started with The Game clinging to a 47-46 lead, and the team hung on in the end, as MS Villagomez failed to neutralize Fidelino and Javier also delivered key baskets. Mark Mintac scored the 2 other points for The Game in the fourth frame.

Friday Game

IT&E 77—De Guzman 15, Peredo 10, Esdreton 8, Flores 8, Aranda 7, Rabasto 6, Barbo 6, Devero 6, Guiab 6, De Dios 3, Rafols 2.

Caravan's 52—Factor 16, Viray 11, Andrew 9, Standish 6, Castro 4, Quan 2, Sablan 2, Villarin 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 33-33, 58-42, 77-52

Saturday Game

The Game 70—Fidelino 20, Mintac 20, Javier 10, Abejo 4, Del Rosario 4, Johnson 4, Santos 3, Castro 3, Parulan 2.

MS Villagomez 67—Dela Cruz 17, Richardson 15, King 13, Aughenbaugh 7, Kwon 6, Manibusan 6, Pangelinan 3, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 32-28, 47-42, 70-67

Messi has option to leave Barca next summer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Barcelona's club president has confirmed that Lionel Messi would have the right to leave the club at the end of this season, as stipulated in his contract.

Spanish newspaper El Pais reported Thursday that Messi's current contract with Barcelona includes the option for the soccer great to unilaterally end his stay in the summer of 2020.

Club president Josep Bartomeu said late Friday that "Leo Messi has a contract through 2020-21, but before that last season the player

could leave Barca."

Bartomeu, however, said he was confident that the club's all-time leading scorer would stay with the team "until 2021 and beyond."

Messi, 32, has scored 603 goals in 687 matches for Barcelona since his debut in 2004. He has helped it win 34 titles, including four Champions League trophies and 10 Spanish leagues.

The Argentine has repeatedly said he is happy to play for the Spanish champions.

Meanwhile, while Olivier

Giroud fights to start for Chelsea, his France place looks rock solid heading toward the European Championship next year.

By which time he might well have overtaken Michel Platini in France's scoring charts.

Giroud took his international tally to 36 with the second goal in Group H leader

France's 4-1 home win against Albania in qualifying for Euro 2020 on Friday. Only France greets Platini with 41 and Thierry Henry with 52 have more goals for Les Bleus.

Yet Giroud is not always in favor with The Blues—Chelsea—despite the veteran striker finishing as top scorer in last season's Europa League with 11 as the London-based club won it to qualify for the Champions League.

It's a different story for Harry Kane because he continues to be an undisputed star for club and country.

His hat trick in a 4-0 home win against Bulgaria ensured England's third straight win in qualifying and moved it on top of Group A ahead of Kosovo, which beat the Czech Republic 2-1 at home.

TENNIS

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cause we needed to resurface the courts and we didn't have the money to do it," he added.

Meanwhile, NMSA president Michael White welcomed the inclusion of tennis to the Mini Games program and they would discuss the good news with PGC officials, who will visit Saipan next month.

"We have to tell the Pacific

Games Council when we meet here on Saipan what sports we're going to offer and hopefully we'll have a definite commitment to them to resurface the tennis courts," White said.

White added that they would also discuss including weightlifting if the federation can find a way to get equipment in time for the Mini Games.

"We dropped weightlifting from the program because we

didn't have the money to buy weights or get them here. The weightlifting has an open invitation, if they can find ways to do that, without costing us any money, then we'll try our best to get weightlifting back on the program," the NMSA head said.

Initially, athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon made the list of sports that will be offered in the Mini Games. The

lineup had to be shortened from 12 to six, as budget for Saipan's hosting of the Mini Games had been sliced from \$8 million to \$3 million. The CNMI government earlier withdrew its commitment to the hosting of the Games citing budgetary concerns after Super Typhoon Yutu struck the islands in October last year, but had a change of heart after negotiating with the PGC and other stakeholders.



Andreescu
denies Serena
24th Slam title

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Cut by Raiders,
Brown joins Patriots
on eve of opener

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tennis in Mini Games viable

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association will be discussing the inclusion of tennis in the calendar of events for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games when it meets with Pacific Games Council officials next month.

During the NMSA monthly board meeting last Thursday, Northern Mariana Tennis Association official and CNMI National Team coach Jeff Race said that the National

Parks Services has identified funding to resurface the American Memorial Park tennis courts in time to include the sport in the Mini Games. Race has been working



on getting tennis into the Mini Games program since the hosting rights was awarded to the Commonwealth in 2014. However, availability of funds for the resurfacing of the AMP facility was still in question when the list of programs for the quadrennial meet was submitted to the Pacific Games Council.

"I had spoken with the supervising ranger at the American Memorial Park. The supervising ranger said that 'we're optimistic that we'll be able to identify National Park Services funds to resurface the tennis courts prior to the scheduled games in June 2021,'" Race said.

"Tennis was not included in the Mini Games and we just had a super successful campaign in the Pacific Games (Samoa) and so we really want it to be in the next Games so we're working on putting it back in. The reason why it wasn't included first was be-

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jeff Race plays at the American Memorial Park tennis courts during the 2019 Coconut Tennis Classic early this year.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Paolo Rafols, center, drives against Caravan's Alex Standish, left, and Prince Factor during the fourth quarter of their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

IT&E eases past Caravan's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E made it two in a row after cruising past Caravan's, 77-52, as action in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League resumed last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

With the 2-0 record, IT&E joined The Game and Saipan Vegas in the early lead in the

10-team league, which took a break for a little over a week due to the unavailability of the MHS Gym. Caravan's dropped to a 1-1 mark and is in the middle of the team standings.

Caravan's was very much in the game after the first half, as it clawed its way back from a double-digit deficit, 13-25, after forcing a deadlock, 33-all, before

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Girls HS volleyball season starts Sept. 17



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Grace Christian Academy player bends down to receive a serve from Saipan International School during their title game in the PSS Girls High School Volleyball League last season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ten teams will play in the regular season of the 2019-2020 PSS Girls High

School Volleyball League, which will kick off on Sept. 17 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Defending champion Grace Christian Academy leads the competitors list this season and the Lady Eagles will be challenged by Saipan International School 1 and 2, Mt. Carmel School 1 and 2, MHS 1 and 2, Saipan Southern High School, Agape Christian School, and Kagman High School.

The Lady Eagles clinched the girls high school championship last season after beating SIS in the finale, 25-21,

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